

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 2008

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, March 25, 2008, has been designated "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the unique contributions to our civilization from those of Greece and of Greek American descent.

Democracy was first born in Greece over 2,000 years ago, based on the fundamental principle of consensual government self-determined by free citizens. The ideas forged in ancient Greece by brilliant minds of the day have such clarity and force that 2,000 years later they still hold more power than a host of armed weapons.

The priceless ideas of democracy and equality born in ancient Greece have strongly shaped the American national identity, which became a beacon of freedom and dignity to individuals. They continue to give hope and inspiration to the millions around the world who yearn to live in a free society like ours. Greece set the example for us and we, in turn have set the example for countless others.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that the Congress has set aside this national day of celebration again in 2008. Each year, it seems, we have a greater appreciation for the tremendous contribution of Greece to our American values and our priceless democracy.

HONORING EVELYN PIZARRO FOR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BUFFALO SCHOOL SYSTEM AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evelyn Pizarro on over 30 years as a devoted educator and community organizer in Buffalo, NY. A well known advocate for the Hispanic community, Evelyn's commitment to education and her community should be an inspiration to us all.

Evelyn was the oldest of six children born to Angel and Illuminada Munoz, immigrants who came to Buffalo in the late forties to work on the farms. She graduated cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1974 with a B.S. in elementary education and received masters in both early childhood education and education administration from Buffalo State College.

Evelyn was in the educational system for over 26 years when she was appointed principal of Early Childhood Center #12 on August 22, 1990. She was the first Hispanic female principal in the City of Buffalo.

In 1991 she was appointed principal of Community School #77, where she remained for nine years before becoming principal of D'Youville Porter Campus School #3. She retired on January 15, 2008.

Evelyn has always been involved with her community in such organizations as Hispanics United of Buffalo, the Bilingual Advisory Board, WNY Hispanic & Friends Civic Association, Hispanics Women's League, Pueblo Buffalo T.V., and served with Galloping Gourmet of the Hispanic Community for seven years. She has also been served on the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency of Buffalo and has been involved with Buffalo Prep Program and Calle 7 Puppet Company. She founded "Tainas 74" Hispanic Women's Softball team and served on the Buffalo Erie County Library Board, the Board of Belmont Housing and Project Flight.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Evelyn's commitment to her community and congratulate her on her recent retirement. I know that you join with me in wishing Evelyn, her husband of 32 years, Jose, and their entire family the very best of luck and Godspeed in the years to come.

HONORING LOREN MAXEY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker. I rise today to honor Loren Maxey, who was born into a farm family in Illinois in 1932. His knack for inventing led to a college scholarship, but he interrupted college to enter the Navy, serving 4 years in the early 1950s. He sailed on a vessel taking part in the nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, seeing up close the results of those tests, and finishing his service as a petty officer first class.

Loren then finished a degree in agricultural engineering at the University of Illinois, but chance led to meeting his future wife Kathy at her family farm in Greeley, Colorado. They moved to Greeley to take over the farm in 1958.

Loren's interest in practical engineering led to further studies in that field, then employment with Forney Industries in aircraft manufacturing, which tied in with another lifelong interest in being a pilot himself. He gained more experience in the agricultural engineering field, and in 1969 started his own company to design, custom build, and service agricultural equipment and later, machinery for snow sports. Maxey Companies continues to flourish, now with Loren's son at the helm, employ-

ing some 45 people. Their customers are local, national, and international. Over the years Loren has obtained three patents himself on practical improvements to increase farm productivity, and, being in Colorado, to groom snowmobile trails.

Along the way, Loren made time to serve on the Ft. Collins City Council, and Chamber of Commerce, as president of the East Larimer County Water District Board and as a director of the North Poudre Irrigation District. He kept his hand in farming and has spent, so far, 14 years on the county fair board.

His love of flying included 40 years as a director and officer of the local airport. Loren provided a lesson in courage when he survived a plane crash in his late forties that severely burned him and was supposed to leave him unable to walk. Loren forced himself to overcome the pain and injuries, and learned to walk again.

He has long been active in local and statewide politics. Rounding out his active volunteer life, he has served as church elder and couples group leader.

Loren and Kathy have three children and eight grandchildren who are all nearby in northern Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Loren Maxey, a practical inventor, engineer, pilot, husband, father, and active contributor of time and talent to his country and community.

HONORING THE GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of the Galilee Baptist Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Established in 1958, Galilee Baptist Church has become a center of faith, hope, and community for several generations of Kalamazoo residents. Over the past five decades, the church and its congregation have undergone many periods of expansion, but have never lost their enthusiasm for the Lord and His powerful word.

I am proud and fortunate to represent the citizens of southwest Michigan because we believe in continually striving to improve our way of life. Because of the good works of the people of Galilee Baptist Church, Michigan is truly a better place to live, work, and worship.

Again, it is my honor to stand today in recognition of the Galilee Baptist Church for its 50 years of service and spiritual outreach to the residents of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 7–13 AS
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the week of April 7–13 as National Public Health Week. In 1995, former President William Jefferson Clinton proclaimed the first full week of April as National Public Health Week. Since then, the American Public Health Association has organized National Public Health Week and developed campaigns to educate the public, policy-makers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health.

Public health efforts strive to prevent disease and promote good health in a variety of ways, including vaccination programs, regulation of prescription drugs, worker health and safety standards, access to clean water and air, and other educational campaigns. Public health includes professionals from many fields with the common purpose of protecting the health of a population.

My colleagues and I have no doubt seen the positive effects that public health awareness can bring to a community. A healthy public gets sick less frequently and spends less money on health care; this means better economic productivity and an improved quality of life for everyone. Healthy children are more likely to attend school and, as a result, improve their overall performance in education. Healthy parents can inform their children about positive wellness choices that will hopefully stay with them well into adulthood. Public health prevention not only educates people about the effects of lifestyle choices on their health, it also reduces the impact of disasters by preparing people for the effects of catastrophes such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and terrorist attacks.

The American Public Health Association has selected climate change as the theme of National Public Health Week 2008. Though the scientific realities and environmental impacts of climate change have been highly publicized in recent years, little has been said about the effects of climate change on public health. Extreme weather events such as hotter summers, colder winters, higher rainfall, and increased rates of natural disasters all aid in posing a greater risk to public health. Disease and injury, in addition to the negative effects of pollution and other modern environmental challenges, are all hazards to public health which must be explored and addressed as this issue continues to influence communities.

I commend the organizations and individuals in Chicago as well as nationwide for their work on the critical issue of public health. National Public Health Week is the ideal time to highlight the immediate and ongoing need for the promotion of and investment in public health activities that will safeguard our Nation's current and future well-being.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
RAHLIN WATSON FOR WINNING
THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rahlin Watson showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Rahlin Watson was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Rahlin Watson always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rahlin Watson on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING STEVEN LYNCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Joseph Lynch of Liberty, Missouri. Steven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Joseph Lynch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO LEO H. CARON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Leo H. Caron, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Leo Caron has dedicated almost 250 hours of his time to volunteer for the patients at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation Extended Core Center (BRECC). He volunteers at the BRECC at least twice a week, which is not

easy for Leo as he is disabled himself and cannot drive himself or walk without the assistance of a walker.

At the BRECC, Leo makes it his mission to ensure every patient has the best possible stay. Leo often searches for support from public agencies, and throughout his extensive searches for resources, he has helped orchestrate donations of such items as books on tape, voice activated watches for blind patients, and other items. He also makes monetary donations to the BRECC for additional resources and will often bring the patients candy and treats.

Despite his own physical challenges, Leo provides recreational visits, personal visits, and resources to the many patients at the BRECC. He does his best to cater to every patient's needs, volunteering his time, donating his money, and tirelessly searching for additional resources to better the patients' time at the BRECC.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Leo Caron. He is a truly remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through his ongoing efforts, he has helped hundreds of veterans receive the resources and comforts they deserve and served as a consistently positive influence in their lives. Leo has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have dedicated their lives to serve our great country.

JULIA M. CARSON POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the late and great former Congresswoman Julia Carson of the Seventh District of the State of Indiana who passed away on December 15, 2007.

Julia Carson was the first woman and African-American to be elected to Congress by the Seventh District of the State of Indiana. She holds the title as the second woman to be elected by the State of Indiana, besides Katie Hall. She served in the Indiana House of Representatives for 4 years and the Senate for 14 years before moving on to a new position as a trustee for Center Township in Indianapolis, Indiana. She gained much respect and success as the trustee and was motivated by former Congressman Andy Jacobs to run for Congress in 1996.

Her victory was marked by sheer success in the House of Representatives. Julia made a lot of good contributions to the House as being a firm supporter of children's health insurance, and by playing a key part insuring that Rosa Parks received a Congressional Gold Medal in her remembrance.

She was a devoted member to the Congressional Black Caucus and to Congress as a whole. We will truly miss her and take all her wisdom with us as we move on to make right decisions for the American people.

JULIA M. CARSON POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5472 which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, IN, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building."

Congresswoman Carson was the first and only African-American and woman in Indiana's congressional delegation. An exceptionally courageous and strong woman, she looked a childhood of poverty and segregation in the eye and rose above it to represent Indiana for over 35 years, first as an Indiana State representative and then as State senator before being elected to the United States Congress in 1996.

Julia was able to use her life experiences to help others also overcome poverty, discrimination and illness. I had the honor of being part of the Congresswoman's initiative to raise awareness of hypertension and stroke. I will always remember her unrelenting advocacy of women's rights, children's health, affordable housing, and equality. She stood up for unpopular, but critical issues including expanding SCHIP in the late 1990s and, most recently, voting against the war in Iraq. It is thus not surprising that Ms. Carson was the only person to ever be named Woman of the Year by The Indianapolis Star on two different occasions.

My strongest memory, however, is how Congresswoman Carson was a special and warm-hearted woman. She was one of the first to go out of her way to introduce herself to me when I first arrived at Congress in 2001. With our birthdays just a few days apart in July, she always took time to greet me with a special tenderness. Her determination on policy issues was matched by a stylish flair and humor that consistently brought a smile to the faces of all in the room.

Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of joining my colleagues in honoring this distinguished woman, good friend, and tireless advocate of the poor and working families by designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, IN, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building."

ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a special privilege for me today to honor the nation of Israel on its 60th birthday. As Israelis celebrate their country's 60th anniversary, the international community is celebrating with them 60 years of independence.

In north Texas and in the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the Jewish Federation

of Greater Dallas, the Jewish Community Center of Dallas, Dallas Chapter of State of Israel Bonds, Dallas Chapter of Hadassah, Dallas Holocaust Museum, B'nai B'rith International, Congregation Beth El Binah, and other organizations have scheduled a series of events to commemorate this occasion.

As someone with a great interest in Israel, Middle Eastern affairs, and world peace, I believe that the political transformations in this region during the past few years have been dramatic. We have come a long way, despite attempts by extreme factions to harm Israel and the cause of peace in the region.

I would like to quote an excerpt from Israel's "declaration of independence," published 50 years ago as the British mandate over the area drew to an end:

We extend our hand in peace and neighbourliness to all the neighbouring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all.

It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that I will continue to work with this and the new administration to ensure the United States remains firm in its commitment to the security of Israel and to those principles necessary to guarantee the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

TRIBUTE TO CUMMINS ENGINE
FOR PRODUCTION OF MILLIONTH
ENGINE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cummins Engine for the production of their millionth engine.

For many years Cummins Engine has provided quality employment to hundreds of residents in the Chautauqua County area. We have seen this company grow and continue to prosper for many years.

Cummins Engine is a global power leader. It is a corporation of complementary business units that design, manufacture, distribute and service engines and related technologies, including fuel systems, controls, air handling, filtration, emission solutions and electrical power generation systems. With a headquarters in Columbus Indiana, they serve customers in more than 160 countries. They also boast a network of 550 company owned and independent distributor facilities and more than 5,000 dealer locations. Cummins employs more than 28,000 employees worldwide and as of 2004 reported sales of \$8.4 billion.

The Jamestown Engine Plant, one of Cummins largest manufacturing facilities. It is responsible for manufacturing heavy duty engines (ISM 11 liters and ISX 15 liters), and machine components. The plant produces an average of 400 engines every day. It was also recognized as the 2004 Business of the Year. For the production of their one millionth engine I am proud and honored to celebrate with this wonderful company.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong employers with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Cummins Engine is one of those businesses and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

HONORING JEANNE LAUDICK

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanne Laudick who was born in Washington, DC, as the daughter of a government attorney. She grew up in Denver, CO, and obtained her college degree from the Colorado State College of Education, now the University of Northern Colorado.

Jeanne married her husband John, in Denver, when she was 21, and they started their family that grew to three children. Their oldest son eventually served in the United States Army. Jeanne was both homemaker and sometimes co-breadwinner for the family over those years.

In 1972, Jeanne and her family moved to Ft. Collins. There she and her husband started their own business, Alpine Manufacturing, Inc., in their basement, with all the kids helping out. That business grew over the years, providing employment for some 70 employees, manufacturing tools, dies, and molds, and providing production machinery. Jeanne held the corporate office of secretary-treasurer, as well as co-owner.

Through the family business, Jeanne became a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Governor's Small Business Committee. She was appointed to the Latimer County Board of Adjustments, and to the Judicial Performance Commission. Exemplifying the American spirit of action and service, Jeanne also served as a volunteer for the Poudre Valley Hospital, the United Way, and as a fundraiser for the Wingshadow Frontier High School for kids needing alternative education opportunities.

Jeanne Laudick never stops doing and learning. She has traveled extensively with her husband, especially since their retirement from the family business. She has seen and experienced several countries in Central and South America, and several more in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East; some, like Uruguay, far off the beaten path.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jeanne Laudick, who has led a life of valuable contribution to her family, her community, and to this country.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
VERN AND JOHANNA EHLERS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of a very special and momentous occasion, the 50th wedding anniversary of our colleague, VERN EHLERS, and his beautiful wife, JOHANNA. As we offer our heartfelt congratulations to them, we have the opportunity to reflect on the significant milestone these two lives, joined as one, celebrate this year.

Married on June 14, 1958, their lives have been marked by a lasting devotion to one another, and to serving and glorifying the Lord.

Through their commitment to a strong faith, VERN and Jo have touched many lives. However, in my opinion, the greatest accomplishment and contribution of this couple are their four children, Heidi and her husband, Bob; Brian; Todd and his wife, Mirjam; and Marla; and their five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. As they gather together on April 26 to mark this special day, it is the perfect time to reaffirm and strengthen the love and memories they share together.

Through a strong dedication to the institution of marriage, VERN and Jo have built a life of love and purpose. This celebration serves as an inspiration for all of us, and again reminds us that great things happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. What a fitting tribute to VERN and Jo.

I offer our best wishes for a joyfully memorable anniversary celebration as well as good health and much happiness for many years to come. As one of just a few scientists serving in the House, apparently our colleague has found the formula for lifelong happiness. May God continue to bless VERN and Jo, and I know that they will continue to be a blessing to their family, and to their many friends and colleagues.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month. Autism Awareness Month brings attention to the wide spectrum of autistic-related disorders affecting as many as 1 in 150 children born in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified autism as a national public health crisis whose cause and cure remain unknown.

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders. It is now more common in diagnosis than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs one's ability to communicate and relate to others; depending on the severity of the diagnosis, autism may dramatically affect one's quality of life and ability to obtain employment.

I am proud of the many organizations and programs that exist in the Chicagoland area to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of autism. I especially want to recognize Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago for its extraordinary work on this important issue. Easter Seals provides comprehensive autism services to its clients, including autism therapeutic schools, adult vocational programs, after school programs, information, and professional training. Illinois has seen a 353-percent increase in autism since 1993. Easter Seals is responding proactively to this increase by building the Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research, which has already begun its construction and is expected to be completed in 2012. This landmark facility will offer stu-

dents with autism an array of services that includes medical assessments, nursing, behavior, speech, physical, and occupational therapy, social work services, art and music therapy, vocational training, and community training. Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago has provided excellent care to its clients for over 70 years, and I commend them for their commitment to serving those affected by autism spectrum disorders in our community.

In Chicago and across the country, it is clear that autism is having an enormous effect on children and families. Autism Awareness Month and its associated events help shine light on this critical issue. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I am indeed pleased to join with my colleagues in celebrating the goals of awareness, prevention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders during this April's National Autism Awareness Month.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TAYLOR HUFFMAN FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Taylor Huffman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Taylor Huffman was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Taylor Huffman always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Taylor Huffman on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING COLIN STARNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colin Thomas Starnier of Liberty, Missouri. Colin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colin Thomas Starnier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO HILDA DAVIS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Hilda Davis, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the Second Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Hilda Davis's husband belongs to the Elks Association's Essex Lodge No. 1866. The lodge visits the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation Extended Care Center, BRECC, frequently, and Hilda's involvement in these visits has increased throughout the years. Not only does Hilda do extensive work for the veterans at the BRECC, but she volunteers at other lodges when they invite veterans to their facilities for various events.

Hilda spends several hours a month volunteering at the BRECC, but she also spends many more hours doing behind the scenes work for BRECC events. For every holiday and party, Hilda makes sure she buys decorations and other festive items that can be used for events with and for the veterans.

During her spare time, Hilda also writes letters to different businesses and organizations asking for donations, either monetary or items that can be used for events for the veterans or given directly to the veterans themselves. Whenever Hilda learns of a female veteran patient at the BRECC, she makes personal comfort kits to take them. Because the BRECC facility does not have a canteen, Hilda will also periodically make snack bags to bring to the patients when the lodge makes their monthly visits to the veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Hilda Davis. She is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through her ongoing efforts, she has brought joy and delight to the hundreds of veterans she has worked with. Hilda has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have sacrificed to serve our great Nation.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK- DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Res. 1077, Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other purposes.

It is important to encourage and support a dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama in order to improve the current and future situation of Tibet. For almost six decades the people of Tibet have been repressed by the Government of China by their policies, laws, and

regulations, which have reduced the Tibetans' economic opportunity and have eliminated their cultural identity.

On March 10, 2008, Tibetan Buddhist monks staged peaceful demonstrations in recognition of the 49th anniversary of Chinese rule over Tibet and the forced exile of the Dalai Lama. In reaction to the protests, the Government of China used excessive force that resulted in the death of hundreds and detention of thousands of Tibetans.

It is time for the Chinese Government to talk with the Dalai Lama to reconcile their differences so that the Tibetans will no longer resent the Chinese and they can live peacefully together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 5472 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building," I would have voted in the affirmative.

TRIBUTE TO SANTINE FARACI CATALINO ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Santine Faraci Catalino on her 100th birthday on April 13, 2008. 100 years is quite an accomplishment!

Santine Catalino has lived an extraordinary life. As a child, Santine worked countless hours on her family's fruit farm. During World War II, she was a welder in a defense plant. For 30 years she managed the family construction business. A fantastic cook, she lives in her own home, and attended bingo three times a week with her younger sister, who is 94, until just three years ago.

Santine is sharp as a tack. She enjoys family around her and telling stories of her youth.

Santine attributes her longevity to eating freshly prepared food all her life, a great deal of chocolate, and never drinking. She even quit smoking 50 years ago!

Madam Speaker, please join with me in congratulating Santine Catalino on her extraordinary 100 years. I wish her many more wonderful years with her family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN HUDSON GAUT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with the Honorable MIKE ROGERS of

Michigan to recognize the life of Kathleen Hudson Gaut of St. Joseph, Michigan who passed away on January 7, 2008.

Kathleen was a loving, selfless woman who will be greatly missed in her community. Nothing made Kay happier than being with her large family who is spread out from coast to coast. Kay also had the enviable ability to make the life of anyone she encountered about town a little bit better that day.

Born March 12, 1926, in Kalamazoo, Kathleen completed grade and high school at Western Michigan (then) College. Recognized in grade school for her athleticism, her interest in high school focused on music, culminating as drum majorette and band master. She completed her education at Kalamazoo Business College, and then went on to a career at Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment (KVP) Corp. In 1970 she was married to a childhood friend, and with her children they came to Stevensville, to be near the lake she had loved as a child. In 1983, Kay and her husband moved to Baroda where they created Senior Life Manor, a foster care home. Retiring 10 years later, they returned to Stevensville, and later to their present home in St. Joseph Township. Kay is survived by her husband of 37 years, Dell; five children. Susan (Robert) Vandervliet of Mineral, Virginia, Thomas (Rhonda) Rabbers of St. Joseph, James (Mary) Rabbers of Stevensville, Jodi Rabbers of Arlington, Texas, and Daniel (Diana) Rabbers of Peoria, Arizona; a step-son, Dale (Jackie) Gaut of Hudsonville, MI; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Kay's mother and father, Harold and Doris Hudson, preceded her in death.

Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Kathleen Gaut. May she rest in peace in heaven.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CODY DENNISON FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Cody Dennison showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Cody Dennison was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Cody Dennison always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Cody Dennison on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING JAMES THOMAS, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Kevin Thomas, Jr. of Liberty, Missouri. James is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Kevin Thomas, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO BM1 ROBERT M. FLICKINGER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor BM1 Robert M. Flickinger, recently named the 2007 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year. Since the start of his Coast Guard career, he has risen through the ranks, attaining the rank of Boatswain's Mate 1, BM1, in June of 2004. During his course of duty, he has also served as a training petty officer and the Executive Petty Officer of Aids to Navigation Team Baltimore.

In the Coast Guard, it is said that the most versatile members of their operational teams are the boatswain's mates. BMs are capable of performing almost any task in boat operations and navigation, and supervise all personnel assigned to a ship's desk force. BMs can be found in nearly every duty station available throughout the United States and various locations overseas. They serve on every Coast Guard cutter, from harbor tugs to sea-going icebreakers. Additionally, BMs will often act as Federal law enforcement officers. BMs are officers-in-charge of many patrol boats, tugs, small craft, and small shore units including search and rescue stations and aids to navigation teams. BMs use their leadership and expertise to perform the missions of the Coast Guard, at sea and on shore.

As Executive Petty Officer of Aids to Navigation, ATON, Team Baltimore Boatswain's Mate First Class Robert Flickinger has continuously provided exceptional leadership and guidance to the crew he oversees. While engaged in over 100 ATON missions in the past year, his professionalism and assertive leadership have led to his unit's zero operational mishap rating. Boatswain's Mate First Class Flickinger is often described by his superior officers as "recruiting poster quality" due to his unsurpassed uniform appearance, military presence, and overall demeanor. His superiors

routinely rely on him to supervise or solve difficult problems and demanding situations. Boatswain's Mate First Class Flickinger consistently seeks to improve the quality and enjoyment of Coast Guard life with an uncommon commitment to the morale and welfare of others. These exceptional qualities are likely the reasons lie was given the title of 2007 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year.

In addition to the prestigious Person of the Year Award, Boatswain's Mate First Class Flickinger has received several additional military awards. He is the recipient of the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, three Coast Guard Good Conduct Medals, and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals. He has also been presented with the Transportation 9–11 Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor BM1 Robert M. Flickinger. His legacy as compassionate yet assertive leader will be remembered by his crewmates and superiors for years to come. It is with great pride that I congratulate Boatswain's Mate First Class Flickinger on his exemplary service to our Nation in the United States Coast Guard.

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and the 120th anniversary of the Twin Oaks estate in Washington, DC, a National Historic Site and the former residence of nine ambassadors from the Republic of China.

The Twin Oaks estate, located on Woodley Road in Northwest Washington, DC, is considered the largest privately-owned estate in the District of Columbia. The land upon which Twin Oaks rests belonged originally to Uriah Forrest, an American general in the Revolutionary War, a member of the first Continental Congress, and one of Maryland's first delegates to Congress. In 1888, the property was sold to Mr. Gardiner Green Hubbard, founder and first president of the National Geographic Society. Mr. Hubbard commissioned one of America's leading architects at the time, Richard Allen, to design and construct a 26-room house in the early Colonial (Georgian) Revival style. Mr. Hubbard's son-in-law, telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell, once lived at the estate.

In 1937, the Twin Oaks estate was rented to the Government of the Republic of China, and in 1947 the property was formally sold to that Government. The estate remained in possession of the Republic of China Government after it moved to Taiwan at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. From 1937 to 1978, the Twin Oaks estate was the official residence of nine Republic of China ambassadors, who used the estate for social gatherings and business meetings with senior members of the U.S. government and members of the diplomatic corps.

In late 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced that the United States would shift

diplomatic relations from the Republic of China to the People's Republic of China on January 1, 1979. Fearing that the People's Republic of China would claim ownership of all its assets in the United States, the Republic of China government in Taiwan asked Thomas G. Corcoran, Sr. to help arrange for the sale of the Twin Oaks estate to a private American civic organization, the Friends of Free China Association, co-chaired by Senator Barry Goldwater.

However, the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, signed into law on April 10, 1979, rendered the transaction unnecessary and ensured that Twin Oaks would remain under ownership of the Republic of China.

Twin Oaks is an invaluable symbol of friendship between the peoples of the United States and Taiwan. Today let us honor the 120th anniversary of the Twin Oaks estate and the 29th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF HAZEL HALEY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Polk County's beloved educator, Hazel Haley, who died on April 7, 2008.

Holding the record for the longest tenure of a Florida teacher, and thought to have been the longest-serving teacher in the country as well, Miss Haley dedicated 69 years of service to the classroom and to multiple-generations of Polk County families, including Florida Governor Lawton Chiles.

Polk County, and especially Lakeland High School—where Hazel taught for 67 years—has not only lost a dear friend, but an advocate, a mentor, and a community leader. Her legacy and memory lives on through the thousands of students lives she impacted. It is estimated that she taught 13,500 students, proving that one person can touch many lives. In addition, Florida Southern College and Polk Community College both award scholarship funds in her name.

A fan of crossword puzzles, episodes of "Law & Order," and all things Shakespeare, Hazel also had a passion for traveling. Living life to the fullest, in 1973 at the young age of 57, Hazel made it a goal to take two international trips each year. Hazel even managed to physically travel around the world, not just once, but twice. She considered herself the biggest Anglophile in the USA, and always found a way to work London into her itinerary.

Known for her sharp wit, frankness, and big heart, Hazel will long be remembered in the halls of Lakeland High School. Classroom 106—where she taught from 1953 to 2006—will forever retain the many lessons Hazel instilled in students of American and English Literature. In 1984, the Polk County School District honored Hazel's steadfast commitment to education officially naming the wing where her room was located as the "Hazel H. Haley Building."

There is no arguing the multitude of contributions Hazel conveyed to her students, her community, and her profession. Hazel's life is not one that we should mourn, but one that

we should commemorate for her genuine love of life she bestowed upon so many lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SPECIALIST GREGORY B. RUNDELL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember and honor the life and courage of U.S. Army Specialist Gregory B. Rundell. The 21-year-old, a native of North St. Paul, MN, was killed by hostile fire on March 26, 2008 while guarding a U.S. military base in Taji, north of Baghdad.

Specialist Rundell joined the Army in 2005 after graduating from North St. Paul High School in 2004. His expected year-long deployment to Iraq began last December for a tour of duty as a member of a Stryker armored vehicle unit. He was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Rundell served his nation and his fellow soldiers with honor and with courage. His commitment to this noble service earned him the Bronze Star for meritorious service in Iraq, a Good Conduct Medal, a Combat Infantry Badge, and the infantry blue cord.

Rundell's desire to serve his nation and his State is an inspiration to his community. After his career in the U.S. Army, he planned to become a police officer because he wanted to help people. His mother, Joanne, describes her son standing "tall and brave" for others, and his sacrifice exemplifies his family's remarkable commitment to military service. His grandfather, uncle, and brother have all worn the uniform in service to our nation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying the highest respect to Specialist Rundell and his family. He is a Minnesotan and American hero. His courage and sacrifice honors our nation. Specialist Rundell's parents as well as his brothers and sisters, Kyle, Wayne, Desiree, Andria, his many friends, and his comrades in Iraq have my deepest sympathies for their profound loss.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING LAVELLE SPIVEY FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Lavelle Spivey showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Lavelle Spivey was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Lavelle Spivey always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Lavelle Spivey on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous

hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING NICK STAMOS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nick James Stamos of Independence, Missouri. Nick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nick James Stamos for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO LYDIE H. MASSE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Lydie H. Masse, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Lydie Masse works as a hospice night nurse at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation Extended Care Center (BRECC). While many of the night duty personnel leave once their shift is over, Lydie always stays to escort patients to breakfast, where she plays the piano as breakfast is served and encourages singing among the patients. Fellow workers and volunteers admire how her music enhances the quality of life among the patients. Her gentle, friendly manner endears her to the patients, and whenever she plays music, encouraging them to join in, a sense of good will pervades the room and brightens the day of many of her patients.

An injury caused Lydie to work with a brace on her leg for several weeks, but despite her long recovery she continued her work, never hurried or impatient with the veterans and always in a positive mood. After her arduous night duty is completed every morning, she stays as long as she is needed to help the patients start with their day, tending to any need her patients may have. She volunteers much of her free time to the patients she works with every night, doing her best to better their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Lydie Masse. She is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through her ongoing efforts, she has brightened the lives of the veterans she works with, making their stay at the BRECC as pleasant

as possible. Lydie has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have sacrificed to serve our great Nation.

HONORING OWEN HALL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO MERCER COUNTY AND OHIO

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Owen Hall, a leading citizen of Mercer County, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to public service. For 18 years, Mr. Hall has contributed his time and talents in leading the Mercer County Republican Party, and for this, I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks.

However, Owen's love of public service is not confined to the political world. Owen is a man committed to his community, serving on many boards and commissions. He is the Past President of the Ohio Association of Realtors, Past President of the National Realtors Land Institute, member of the Ohio Auctioneers Hall of Fame, Director of the Lake Development Corporation, Past President of the Ohio Churches of God Youth Advance, lifetime member of the Church of God, and Past President of the church council.

Owen's record—as a committed community man, a church leader, and as a good neighbor helping those in need—will leave an enduring legacy in Mercer County. His leadership will be missed, but the footprint he has left will inspire many to emulate his good works.

Owen, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for your long and successful career in public service. I wish you well in your future retirement, and I hope you continue to achieve happiness and success wherever your life journey may lead you.

COVENTRY LIONS CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and congratulate the Coventry Lions Club for its 50th anniversary this year. The Coventry Lions Club held its first meeting on April 15, 1958 and was chartered by the International Lions Club to serve the area that is now known as the Owen J. Roberts School District, which includes seven townships in its community of service. Of the charter members, only two are known by the Club to still be living in the area—Dr. Robert Barr and Mr. Stauffer Kutz—who have agreed to be a part of the Club's celebration.

Over the years, the Coventry Lions Club has boasted a membership that includes business and community leaders willing to work under the International Lions slogan of "We Serve." That history has continued into the present time with a membership that seeks to serve the local community, as well as participate in international programs that serve the less fortunate of the world. There are numer-

ous examples of the great work they do in our community and abroad, including: providing eye examinations and glasses for children whose families are unable to meet the necessary financial requirements; delivering food boxes to needy families at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; providing financial assistance to families who have experienced hardship due to injury and natural disasters; cleaning up and maintaining stretches of local roads; giving financial scholarships to deserving high school graduates; and participation in many other projects within its Lions District, the Delaware Valley and the Tri-State area.

One example of an international project the Coventry Lions Club is working on is the Campaign Sight First II conducted by Lions Club International Foundation. This project is hoping to provide \$200,000,000 to attack preventable blindness throughout the world and contribute toward other humanitarian causes. The Coventry Lions Club has contributed financial resources to numerous noteworthy projects such as this over the years.

Madam Speaker, the Coventry Club has a long and wonderful history of helping its community, and all those throughout the world who may need help. I know my colleagues join me as I congratulate its members for their inspirational work and exceptional public service.

HONORING DR. HWA-WEI LEE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions and achievements of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee. After an esteemed 5 years as the chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress—a bookend to his dedicated 50 years in the library profession, Dr. Lee is retiring.

Before joining the Library of Congress in 2003, Dr. Lee had already achieved a distinguished career in the pursuit and preservation of knowledge. He first served at the Main Library of the University of Pittsburgh, where he also completed two master's degrees and a Ph.D. He then advanced his career working at many other libraries, including Duquesne University, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, Colorado State University, and Ohio University. Dr. Lee was Dean of Libraries at Ohio University for 21 years. During that time, he was able to transform a relatively unassuming university library into a prestigious member of the Association of Research Libraries, and ranked among the top 70 academic research libraries in North America. Recognizing Dr. Lee's numerous and incredible accomplishments, Ohio University displayed its enormous appreciation of Dr. Lee by not only naming the first floor of its main library the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections, but also dedicating a new library annex after him.

During his short tenure at the Library of Congress, Dr. Lee focused his energy on completely rejuvenating and reorganizing the Asian Division. He introduced innovative programs designed to improve and expand the division's resources, collections, services, and outreach.

As chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, it has been my privilege to have collaborated with Dr. Lee and his dedicated staff at the Asian Division. Our shared pursuit to tell the complete Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, story and dispel the cloak of invisibility and mischaracterization upon the community has given life to a new AAPI Collection at the Library of Congress. This is another milestone of Dr. Lee's storied career.

Dr. Lee and his lovely wife Mary will soon move to Florida to bask in the sunny rays of retirement. But I suspect that he will not slow down, and will continue his many pursuits. As anyone who has met Dr. Lee can attest, his boundless, enthusiastic spirit will not allow him to stay idle. In fact, he has already promised to visit the Library frequently and is eager to start his new role as board director of the Asian Division Friends Society.

Madam Speaker, I commend Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee for his dedication and many contributions to the librarian profession and am especially grateful for his nurturing leadership of the Asian Division and of the establishment of the AAPI Collection at the Library of Congress. I wish Dr. Lee and his family all the best for his retirement and their future endeavors.

**EAST DAVIDSON GOLDEN EAGLES
TAKE THE TITLE**

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the season for the East Davidson girls basketball team started with plenty of questions about having to replace veterans players with a host of new teammates. Head Coach Terry Allmon said to the Thomasville Times, "Two years ago, nobody expected us to do anything. Last year, the expectations were out of sight. This year, the same thing."

On March 25, 2008, the East Davidson Golden Eagles showed they had what it takes to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, NCHSAA, 2-A girls basketball championship. East Davidson won over Graham High School, 62-59. This is the first state championship for the East Davidson girls basketball team.

The championship win finally started to look possible at the start of the second half of the March 25 game against Graham, even though East Davidson was trailing, 30-27. The Golden Eagles used the third quarter to blow the game wide open, as they have done in the last three games.

This win comes at the end of a season for the Golden Eagles in which they finished 27-4. Coach Allmon also told the Thomasville Times, "This is a dream come true, these ladies here stepped up when they had to."

Congratulations are in order for Coach Terry Allmon and his assistants Billy Freeman and Brian Eddinger on a great season. The men will be the first to tell you that most of the credit goes out to the players on the court. The players who contributed to the title run included seniors Megan Byerly and Dee Lanier, juniors Mandi Beck, Alyssa Cutshaw, Haley Everhart, Anna Freeman, Elizabeth Merritt, and Felicia Whitley, sophomores Candace

Fox, Haley Grimsley, and Stacy Hicks, and freshmen Taylor Alexander and Chelsea Turner. The team was ably assisted by the scorekeeper Chasz Brown and the videographer Tyler Gibson.

On behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to once again congratulate the East Davidson Golden Eagles on having a great season and winning the North Carolina 2-A girls basketball championship. We are all so proud of their accomplishment.

**RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY**

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare my support for the employees of the Department of Homeland Security and to thank them for their important service to our country. I opposed the formation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002. There was good reason to believe that a reorganization that would take at least 10 years and possibly more, would cause delay in implementation of real measures that could make the country safer.

I pointed out that the proposed reorganization of 22 different agencies into one large entity would not constitute efficient and effective government, nor would it help the thousands of Americans who die of violent crimes each year in this country.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, it soon became apparent that my concerns about establishing the Department of Homeland Security were valid. Katrina and the subsequent flooding took at least 1,835 lives and sent a powerful reminder to the people of the United States that the homeland is not secure. I certainly do not expect that the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or any other government agency can prevent a natural disaster. But FEMA's own mandate was to coordinate disaster relief through preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. The federal response should have been to make things happen and to make them happen quickly; to anticipate and respond to the needs of local and state officials.

Instead Hurricane Katrina will long be held in our Nation's collective conscience. We will remember the terrified and helpless faces of the victims that this disaster claimed, displaced and horrified. We will remember the faces of our fellow citizens pleading for help, for days as they endured horrible conditions at the convention center and Superdome. The unbearably inadequate response to these disasters exacerbates the shame, heartache and insecurity that has resulted. The images haunt us.

What was the response from the former FEMA Director Michael Brown in testimony before the House? He said, "[a]nd while my heart goes out to people on fixed incomes, it is primarily a state and local responsibility. And in my opinion, it's the responsibility of faith-based organizations, of churches and

charities and others to help those people." Michael Chertoff, Secretary of DHS said, "I remember on Tuesday morning picking up newspapers, and I saw headlines, 'New Orleans Dodged the Bullet.'" Is this the way we make the homeland safer? By attempting to fabricate leadership instead of demonstrating it?

Furthermore, in 2003 the Administration terminated the collective bargaining rights of TSA screeners just as TSA workers were ready to vote on joining the union of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). DHS does not allow a unionized TSA workforce. Transportation security workers deserve collective bargaining rights. It is an insult to these dedicated men and women within DHS, including FEMA, the Army Corp of Engineers and Border Patrol that their rights to organize have been denied.

I unequivocally appreciate the dedicated service of DHS employees. Their hard work and commitment to public service is outstanding and valuable. However, I cannot celebrate the creation of DHS.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
RYAN QUEEN FOR WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BAS-
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Queen showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ryan Queen was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ryan Queen always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Ryan Queen on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007-2008 basketball season.

HONORING TRENTON LERETTE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trenton Crane LeRette of Blue Springs, Missouri. Trenton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1306, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trenton has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Trenton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trenton Crane LeRette for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH RAPSON

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Ralph Rapson, one of the country's most influential architects. His Modernist designs were not only significant in the State of Minnesota but can be seen around the world. While I regret to report the recent passing of Ralph Rapson at the age of 93, I am grateful for his talent, his dedication and his passion; all of which we were lucky to have him share with the state of Minnesota.

Born in Alma, Michigan in 1914, Ralph earned his degree in architecture at the University of Michigan. In 1939 he designed a streamlined rocking chair that went on to bear his name, the Rapson Rapid Rocker. From 1942–1946 he taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1946–1954.

Mr. Rapson's relationship with Minnesota began over 50 years ago when he came to the University of Minnesota to serve as the Dean of the Architecture School. From 1954–1984 as the Dean he went on to influence the lives and careers of many architecture and design students. Ralph Rapson's defining work was the innovative and asymmetrical themed former Guthrie Theater building across from the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Mr. Rapson's resume also includes the Rarig Center for Performing Arts on the University of Minnesota campus, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Paul Park, the Riverside Plaza housing complex in Minneapolis and the former Pillsbury House in Wayzata and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Paul. He also designed the United States Embassies in Stockholm, Sweden and Copenhagen. Most recently Mr. Rapson's Minneapolis-based company had developed a line of prefabricated modern houses called the Rapson Greenbelt.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Ralph Rapson: his son Rip of Birmingham, Mich., who is president of the Kresge Foundation and Toby, of Minneapolis, who is also an architect and six grandchildren. Mr. Rapson today we thank you.

DOCUMENTARY ON PLIGHT OF NYC "GHOST WORKERS"

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of several journalists with the Queens Courier, a weekly newspaper in New York City, who wrote a four-part series on day laborers titled "Ghost Workers."

Courier staff writers Peter Davis, Noah Rosenberg, and Christina Santucci, with the help of Damian Ghigliotti and Joe Hirsch, documented for 3 months the histories, labor, challenges, and lives of this invisible population. Their excellent reporting gave us a necessary glimpse into the lives of these hard-working men and women and the hardships they face as day laborers.

Through their work these journalists remind us all of the essential role that the local press play in telling the stories often missed in the commotion of cable television and the 24-hour news cycle.

The four-part series by the Queens Courier provided readers with an accurate, relevant, and illuminating window into this important but underground workforce. The series showcased their hopes for a brighter future and the obstacles they encounter, including oftentimes dangerous working conditions. The series noted that a 2003 study found that 63 percent of day workers surveyed said that their bosses did not give them protective clothing or equipment and 12 percent said that they had been injured on a job site at least once in the past year.

It is the stories that they tell which should remind us all of the "facts on the ground"—the stories to inform and inspire our policy and legislative work. The stories that journalists like Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, and their colleagues tell illuminate the very best what journalism can be: informational and inspiring. It can change the world by making seen the invisible, teaching the unknown, and challenging the conventional wisdom.

We all should thank The Queens Courier, their editors, and reporters Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, Ghigliotti, and Hirsch for their incredible work.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of National Public Health Week, I rise today to focus attention on the effects of climate change on the health of the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Scientists from around the world have issued clear warnings that the Earth's temperature is rising as a result of the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by human activity. Climate change negatively affects the environment in a fundamental way. It affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and it contributes to the spread of disease. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought, and stronger hurricanes further illustrate the dangers associated with climate change.

Climate change looms large for everyone in our Nation, but it disproportionately impacts our Nation's vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, the poor, and people diagnosed with chronic illness. These populations are not only most vulnerable to adverse health conditions as a result of climate change, they also lack the resources to mitigate the impact of these conditions on their daily lives.

We must act now to prevent dangerous, irreversible warming of our planet and to ensure a promising future for other generations. That is why I have joined as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1081, recognizing the week of April 7, 2008 to April 13, 2008, as "National Public Health Week" and designating the theme of the week as "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance." I have also cosponsored legislation offered by Representative HENRY WAXMAN that seeks to create a national framework for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

I want to congratulate Representative HILDA SOLIS and Representative WAXMAN for putting forward these important bills and for drawing attention to the threat of global climate change on public health.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA STATE SENATOR TRAVIS HOLDMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING-IN

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newest member of the Indiana State Senate. The sun has set on the long and proud legacy of one visionary leader, but a new dawn is rising in the Hoosier heartland.

Tomorrow at the Indiana Statehouse, surrounded by family and friends, Travis Holdman will raise his right hand to be sworn in as State Senator for Indiana's 19th District.

After his victory, Holdman said he had no acceptance speech prepared. He simply thanked the caucus and quoted Proverbs 15:22: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with advisors they succeed." I'm sure he will receive a lot of counsel in the months and years ahead as he seeks to serve his constituents.

I've known Travis and his wife Becky for years. He has a wealth of business and political experience that will serve his constituents well.

Travis has been involved with banking for the past 15 years, serving as a bank CEO, bank holding CEO, and chairman of the board. Previously, he spent 6 years as a deputy prosecutor in Wells County.

Travis has served as both chairman and vice chairman of the Wells County GOP for the past 12 years. Most recently he served on the Wells County Council.

Travis and Becky are also leaders in a number of civic and community activities. At the Zanesville United Methodist Church, they volunteer for the UPWARD sports ministry. Travis serves on the board of trustees for Huntington University and has worked with Youth for Christ student ministry.

Travis was the youngest of eight children and grew up in a poor but hard-working family of farmers. He will tell you that his parents instilled in him five core values: traditional family values, conservative political views, "Hoosier common sense," a Judeo-Christian worldview, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, no one will ever fill Senator David Ford's shoes, but Indiana will be well served by Senator Travis Holdman.

RPF CFTC

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that provides an important extension of the Commodity Exchange Act of 1934. This legislation focuses on energy transactions that perform a "significant price discovery function." The legislation also addresses fraud and retail transactions in foreign exchange markets. It gives the Commodities Futures Trading Commission broader authority to prosecute fraud in other commodities such as heating oil.

Americans have lost confidence in our energy markets—particularly in the futures market. I have spoken with many constituents who are skeptical about the price of gasoline and heating oil prices. Many consumers strongly suspect these prices are being manipulated.

Over the past year, we have seen historical increases in the prices of gasoline and heating oil. Our colleagues in the Senate have done significant analysis on this issue, and their findings have been supported by reports published by the GAO and in the fall of last year.

At the end of last year, Triple-A, AAA predicted that these spring months would see a decrease in oil and gas prices between the busy winter and summer travel seasons. Yet, prices remain around all-time highs, despite relatively constant inventory levels.

Residents of New Jersey and throughout the country have struggled with heating bills, businesses are having difficulty with their electricity and transportation costs and this situation does not appear to be improving.

To fix this situation requires complex answers, but it is becoming patently clear that speculation in the unregulated exempt commodities market is working to increase energy prices.

Providing transparency to these dark markets is long overdue. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues will support this legislation, which is very closely aligned with a Senate Amendment to the Farm bill, which had bipartisan support and was passed by a voice vote.

Quoting the Energy Market Oversight Coalition, "To restore public confidence, all energy markets must be fair, orderly, and transparent so the prices paid by consumers reflect the true supply and demand."

In order for our futures markets to work, and our financial system as a whole, there is a pressing need for transparency. The CFTC exists for a specific reason and the work they do is vital to the operations of our economy. However, it cannot accomplish its mission if there are markets that it cannot monitor.

This legislation addresses this troubling gap in the law and will ensure the solvency of our financial system and energy markets.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
GREG AVERY FOR WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Greg Avery showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Greg Avery was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Greg Avery always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Greg Avery on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING AARON HARTFIEL**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Michael Hartfiel of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1312, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Michael Hartfiel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday I was unavoidably detained and unable to reach the House floor in time for two rollcall votes.

If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 165—on adoption of H. Res. 1084, Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes—I would have voted, "yes."

Rollcall No. 166—on passage of H. Res. 1077, Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans—I would have voted, "yes."

IN HONOR OF JEANETTE LANCASTER, NATIONAL NURSING LEADER

HON. VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, Jeanette Lancaster, PhD, RN, FAAN, Sadie Heath Cabaniss Professor of Nursing and Dean of the University of Virginia School of Nursing, will soon step down as Dean after an extraordinary 19 years of service in that role. It is not only for her status as one of the longest tenured deans in the University's modern history that she is known by her peers as the "Dean of Deans."

During her deanship, the UVA School of Nursing national rankings rose by at least ten points to now stand at 19th in the United States; among the country's top five percent of nursing schools. U.S. News & World Report ranks two of the School's master's programs in their Top Ten and two others in the top twenty. Dr. Lancaster has expanded the School's enrollment by 28 percent and projects additional increases to help meet the country's current and future health care needs. She has been an avid supporter of ROTC and military nursing enrollment.

Under her visionary leadership, the UVA School of Nursing has been in the vanguard launching innovative programs to meet the more complex and technical needs for nurses in today's health care environment and to address the current and growing shortage of well educated nursing clinicians and faculty.

Dr. Lancaster, holder of the first endowed nursing professorship in the United States, has been recognized with the first endowed professorship named for a female dean at the University of Virginia (1999). She has been honored as both the first nursing dean and the first woman to be invited in her own right to live in one of Thomas Jefferson's Pavilions on the historic UVA Lawn. Her innovative efforts to improve gender imbalance at the University of Virginia to give women a more equal role in decision-making are well acknowledged.

In foreseeing and navigating the sea changes now occurring in the nursing profession, Jeanette Lancaster has been a national leader. She also is recognized internationally as an authority in community health nursing, nursing education and public policy. As president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), she has testified before the U.S. Congress to advocate for support of nursing education. The AACN is a national organization that sets standards, recommends curricula and advocates for nursing baccalaureate and higher degree education to improve patient outcomes.

Her peers have elected her as a Fellow in the prestigious American Academy of Nursing and National Academies of Practice. She has held numerous national leadership positions in professional associations and been honored nationally with multiple awards and honorary degrees. Recently, she served on the Commonwealth of Virginia's statewide Healthcare Workforce Task Force and has long been an effective advocate for greater Commonwealth support for nursing education.

We hereby commend Jeanette Lancaster for her outstanding career as Dean, her effective

and visionary leadership combined with commitment and dedication to improve health care for the people of the United States and for her ability to inspire others to excellence.

PREDATORY LENDING

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article from Consumer Rights League, which is reprinted below.

PREDATORY CHARITY: THE SELF-INTERESTED SELF-HELP OF THE CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The term "predatory lending" seems to have appeared out of thin air in recent years. In reality, the prevalence of the term—and the accompanying public panic—owes much to a sophisticated public relations campaign carried out by the increasingly high-profile Center for Responsible Lending (CRL).

As the most visible face of the half-billion dollar team of "Self-Help" non-profit organizations, CRL attacks competing loan products. Under the guise of advocating in the interests of its low-income customers, Self-Help makes loans at highly profitable rates and uncharitably takes those low-income customers to court over trivial monetary sums. Worse, CRL's advocacy has worked to the disadvantage of low-income borrowers.

This report utilizes documents in the public record to demonstrate: CRL's advocacy agenda—built on pseudoscience that relies on arbitrary and opaque definitions and unreliable estimates and assumptions—has harmed consumers, according to recent Federal Reserve research; CRL's troubling alliances—a spokesman who pled guilty to felony larceny, an employee who engaged in eavesdropping, and a multi-million-dollar grant from a wealthy Wall Street investor with a stake in the outcome of CRL's lobbying activities; the Self-Help network attacks other lenders for allegedly using practices that it employs—taking in charitable grants and low-interest government loans while charging its customers uncharitably high rates and prosecuting low-income customers for amounts as low as \$96; the Self-Help network has combined its advantageous loan rates and aggressive legal attacks to build a powerful organization with net assets of a quarter-billion dollars and approximately \$12 million in annual profit from its largest loan-making body; the Self-Help network seems to encourage its customers to assume high amounts of debt. Its delinquency loan rate is almost 7 times the rate at comparable credit unions. Its customers carry loan balances over 3 times the rate of those institutions.

Many consumer advocates work with financial institutions to meet community needs. Yet the public record shows CRL and its financial web do more harm than good. This report examines CRL's record and concludes that public officials, policymakers, and the media should be skeptical about the group's complaints, while non-profit donors and government bodies need to re-examine the charitable loan rates they provide to CRL's web of financial organizations.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SELF-INTEREST

What do you call an organization that has made more than \$190 million in profit in the

last ten years by targeting poor Americans with high interest rate loans? If you were the Center for Responsible Lending, you would call that organization a "predatory lender." However, this is a description that fits "Self-Help." CRL's network of non-profits.

CRL is the research and advocacy arm of a large and financially powerful web of organizations under the umbrella of the Center for Community Self-Help. This matrix includes the Self-Help Ventures Fund (the largest loan-making body), the Self-Help Development Corporation, the Self-Help Services Corporation (which pays salaries and many expenses for network staff), and the Self Help Credit Union. According to tax returns, the Self-Help network (except its credit union) increased its assets by nearly 36 percent—from \$181 million to 245 million—between 2002 and 2004. According to the National Credit Union Administration, the Self-Help Credit Union reported \$292,143,058 in assets as of November 2007.

Questions have arisen as to whether this largess has benefited the working poor or if the group's leaders have simply been helping themselves. Critics scoff at Self-Help's 2004 decision to spend a whopping \$23 million to buy a high-rise building in downtown Washington, D.C. for its operations. Perhaps more troubling, one report examining tax returns for the Self-Help Credit Union assets found: "The financial reports of the Self-Help Credit Union reveal that throughout the 1990s Self-Help made loans to its officials and senior executives averaging \$30,000 to \$40,000, a practice permitted by Self-Help's conflict-of-interest policy. In June 2002, one official received a loan for about \$1.2 million, and tax forms show that in March 2004 another official received a large loan, bringing the total borrowed by only two unnamed Self-Help officials to more than \$2.7 million. Without explanation, those loans disappeared from the Credit Union's financial report in December 2004."

Self-Help's credit union provides ample conflicts of interest with CRL's attacks on other lenders. In November 2007, researchers from the Federal Reserve examined the effects of payday loan bans, including the North Carolina law successfully pushed by CRL. The researchers concluded that payday lending was actually preferable to the fees credit unions—like those operated by Self-Help—charge its low-income consumers: "Payday loans are widely condemned as a 'predatory debt trap.' We test that claim by researching how households in Georgia and North Carolina have fared since those states banned payday loans in May 2004 and December 2005. Compared with households in all other states, households in Georgia have bounced more checks, complained more to the Federal Trade Commission about lenders and debt collectors, and filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection at a higher rate. North Carolina households have fared about the same. This negative correlation—reduced payday credit supply, increased credit problems—contradicts the debt trap critique of payday lending, but is consistent with the hypothesis that payday credit is preferable to substitutes such as the bounced-check 'protection' sold by credit unions and banks or loans from pawnshops."

These findings raise serious doubt as to the social value of CRL's advocacy and the quality of its research.

Further questions have focused on the group's drive for political influence. CRL has publicly signed a letter with the radical group ACORN. It has received significant financial support from George Soros's Open Society Institute and tens of millions from the left-leaning Ford Foundation.

Indeed, it will be the very low-income consumers extolled in CRL's rhetoric that are

most hurt by the group's power. Self-Help and the CRL are redefining hypocrisy and creating a new term: "predatory charity."

REDEFINING PREDATORY LENDING: WHEN YOU MAKE ASSUMPTIONS

From elaborate assumptions to dubious omissions, the "studies" released by the Center for Responsible Lending have all the indications of advocacy-driven research. CRL's studies make frequent methodological assumptions that artificially inflate their findings. It is clear that their reports are written with a pre-determined conclusion in mind.

FEDERAL RESERVE RESEARCH SINKS "FINANCIAL QUICKSAND"

CRL has raised its public profile by attacking the practice of "predatory lending." Its media presence is largely in response to its 2006 report, "Financial Quicksand." Unfortunately, CRL has built its argument on a foundation of sand that erodes economic opportunity for the very low-income consumers it purports to protect.

If anything, "Financial Quicksand" sinks from its own assumptions. The report is best characterized as a series of arbitrary definitions. It uses non-nationally representative estimates, derived from a serious of unjustified assumptions, to argue that payday lenders "cost" Americans \$4.2 billion dollars each year. Although the report claims to offer a national perspective on the payday lending industry, it samples data from only four states for its central findings.

Consider some of the report's problems: "Financial Quicksand" makes 18 separate assumptions, many of which would be charitably described as questionable, and rely on another 53 "estimates" to reach their conclusions.

Crucially, the report hinges on the critical (and flawed) assumption that anyone who takes out five or more loans in a year is likely flipping their loans back-to-back-to-back. However, 22 states prohibit "flipping" loans and many more limit rollovers—a fact ignored by the report.

The report also suggests that payday loans "cost Americans" billions of dollars and argues that banning them could "save" billions more. In economics, a "cost" typically occurs when capital is eliminated from the economy. For instance, unnecessary inefficiency in a manufacturing process could be seen as a "cost to Americans." However, financial services, including those offered by payday loans operators, do just the opposite. They generate capital for the economy and for each individual loan-taker.

Claiming that payday lending bans "save" money is equally dubious. Not only does the industry itself generate capital for a state's economy and tax revenue for the government, but payday loans, like any other loan, allow individuals to generate more capital for themselves on the aggregate. By banning payday lending, states don't "save." Instead, they experience a cost through lost tax revenue and lost capital opportunities.

Statistical research released from the Federal Reserve suggests CRL's lobbying efforts against payday lending have been misguided at best. In December 2007, the Associated Press reported that, "A ban on payday loans may be leading to greater financial burdens for low-income residents of two Southern states, according to a researcher at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York."

Indeed, the Federal Reserve report specifically cited CRL's "research" against payday lending and its estimate that a ban would "save" Georgians \$154 million. It concluded that CRL's research was both flawed and costly to low-income consumers: "Georgians and North Carolinians do not seem better off since their states outlawed payday credit: they have bounced more checks, complained

more about lenders and debt collectors, and have filed for Chapter 7 ('no asset') bankruptcy at a higher rate."

"The increase in bounced checks represents a potentially huge transfer from depositors to banks and credit unions. Banning payday loans did not save Georgian households \$154 million per year, as the CRL projected, it cost them millions per year in returned check fees."

THE RACE CARD AND CRL

In its report "Race Matters," CRL strongly implies that payday lending stores target minority neighborhoods in North Carolina. The authors report that minority neighborhoods have three times as many payday lending stores as non-minority neighborhoods. But CRL fails to adequately account for other important factors that predict the existence of payday lending stores, such as a neighborhood's mean income. While the authors recognize this significant shortcoming, they still report the uncontrolled result.

The researchers also conducted a multivariate analysis to control for income, home ownership, and other factors. Their analysis found that "the highest 20 percent of African-American neighborhoods had 4.1 times as many storefronts per capita compared to the lowest 20 percent." That said, an examination of their methodology reveals an odd, and likely highly significant statistical decision. Rather than look at all census tracts and include racial and ethnic breakdown in their regression, CRL's researchers created "dummy variables" for neighborhoods based on the percentage of minorities that lived in them. They then compared the neighborhoods with the highest concentration of minorities to those with the lowest.

This methodology is problematic because a neighborhood's racial or ethnic breakdown is not a black and white issue. By artificially pitting the few neighborhoods with the highest minority concentrations against those with the lowest, they were able to generate a dubious rhetorical point.

Indeed, these major flaws led Wesleyan University economics professor Thomas Lehman to say CRL's report "contains severe weakness and presents conclusions that are overstated at best, and misleading at worst." He added, "It must also be recognized that the overall tone of the study suggests a lack of objectivity perhaps motivated by an ideological bias against the payday lending industry, which may explain why (the authors) appear to overstate their case given the weakness of their research."

FAILURE TO LOSE GROUND

In "Losing Ground," CRL's report on subprime mortgage foreclosures, the organization again produced a report warning of catastrophic consequences based on an arbitrary definition.

In the report, CRL researchers claim that 25 percent of subprime mortgages "fail" within five years. This is a critical distinction because the entirety of the report is based on the number of failed mortgages—not the number of foreclosed mortgages.

While subprime mortgages have faced significant problems, they have fallen predictably short of CRL's dire predictions. That is understandable given how CRL defines a "failed" loan.

In fact, their own report admits that only 11 percent of subprime mortgages will be foreclosed within five years. The remaining 14 percent are loans prepaid during distress, such as refinancing or selling a property. But the latter category suggests a wide variety of equally beneficial or negative outcomes. For instance, under CRL's definition, a loan refinanced for a lower interest rate would qualify as a failure. But this in no way indicates a "failed" attempt at home ownership.

By lumping loan refinancing and home sales during distressed periods into its "failed" mortgages category, CRL more than doubles the supposed costs of the subprime mortgage industry.

DEFINING PREDATORY CHARITY

The Center for Responsible Lending primarily attracts media attention through its attacks on financial institutions that serve low-income and high-risk consumers. CRL frequently complains about interest rates and loan terms offered by traditional and community financial service providers. The group lobbies for laws that ban certain loan types and allow borrowers to change the terms of active loans. The surprising reality, though, is that CRL's family of financial institutions appear more interested in helping themselves than assisting the poor.

BUYING LOW, SELLING HIGH

As ostensible charities, Self-Help organizations receive support in the form of grants from non-profit foundations and subsidized government loans at preferential interest rates.

Self-Help pays typically between zero and four percent interest on the loans it obtains, many of which come from government-supported entities. The Ventures Fund took in more than \$2.5 million in loans from the Small Business Administration's Microloan Program, with rates ranging from 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent. It also accepted more than \$3.9 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Intermediary Relending Program, which carries a one percent interest rate. On top of that, the Center for Community Self-Help has carried a zero percent loan from the state of North Carolina for years.

But Self-Help charges interest far above the charitable rates at which it borrows.

In 1998, the last year it reported interest rates on its publicly disclosed federal tax form, the Self Help Venture Fund reported that their average interest rate was more than 10 percent. For reference, that is approximately three percentage points higher than the average home mortgage rate in 1998, according to HSH Associates Financial Publishers. That adds up to a nearly 40 percent premium over the average rate. The Ventures Fund made other loans at interest rates as high as 13 percent.

Since 1997, the Venture Fund has made more than \$190 million dollars in profit. It has made as much as \$36 million—and no less than \$13 million—annually since then. During the same period, the fund turned over \$468 million in revenue. If the Venture Fund were officially a for-profit entity, its profit margin would be a staggering 40 percent—far higher than the margins of the lenders Self-Help and CRL attack.

HAULING CUSTOMERS INTO COURT (AND KICKING THEM OUT ON THE STREET)

Lien proceedings and foreclosures are not just the target of CRL's rhetoric—they are the standard operating procedure for CRL's "Self-Help" organizations. Despite their denunciations of other lenders, the Self-Help network takes action against its low-income consumers through lawsuits and foreclosure proceedings.

Like the lenders it attacks, Self-Help seeks judicial recourse when borrowers do not repay them. But in 2000, Self-Help founder Martin Eakes told PBS that they were better able to gauge how low-income individuals would repay loans: "[W]e went for ten years, we have had our first loss of a home loan of \$10,000 in a total of \$120 million of lending directly and indirectly we have made, to mostly minority, single moms. We had our first \$10,000 this past year. So, whatever people believe, the truth is, if someone has a chance to get a foothold and own a home, they will

be far better borrowers than most of the rest of us."

That may not be the whole story. The data from the National Credit Union Association, which oversees Self-Help Credit Union, paints a startling picture. As of September 2007, Self-Help's ratio of delinquent loans to loans issued was 598 percent higher than its peer credit unions. Ignoring CRL's critique that payday lenders and subprime mortgage lenders are too aggressive with amounts they offer customers, Self-Help Credit Union's customers carry an average loan balance of \$40,733—more than 200 percent higher than at comparable institutions.

When loans terms are not met, Self-Help gets aggressive. Records show that Self-Help organizations have taken foreclosure or eviction steps against its low-income customers for as little as \$62,332 in 2005 and \$50,768 against another in 2002. And despite CRL's public advocacy on behalf of small borrowers, Self-Help's record includes lawsuits against countless small-dollar borrowers, including suits for as little as \$96.

The Self-Help organizations based in North Carolina have taken legal action against local Southern favorites, including: a fried chicken store in 2001; a BBQ joint in 1997; a NASCAR collectibles company in 2002.

Perhaps more troubling, Self-Help has hauled local charitable organizations into court, including: the Appleton Academy in 2000; the Creative Learning Center in 2003; the Calvary Christian Church in 1993; Joyful Noise Daycare in 1998; an eviction of Oz Land Child Care Center in 2003; the Non Profit Consulting & Training Center in 2004 for only \$956.

STRANGE (AND CRIMINAL) BEDFELLOWS

In September 2007, the Center for Responsible Lending arranged news events that sought to damage payday loan companies by providing former industry employees who alleged negative business practices by their former employers. The gambit paid off: several news stories ran with headlines potentially damaging to the industry. Yet the credibility of CRL's witness Michael Donovan, a former employee of leading payday loan company Check 'N Go remains clouded in doubt.

A lawsuit filed by Check 'N Go's parent company alleges Donovan and CRL conspired to defraud the firm and that Donovan lied about his criminal record. The suit alleges: Donovan provided a fake Social Security number to gain employment at Check 'N Go; when asked about the problematic Social Security number, Donovan provided a forged Social Security Administration document to gain employment; Donovan illegally provided confidential company information to CRL; Donovan allowed CRL to eavesdrop on a trade association conference call.

According to the suit, Donovan's criminal record includes an April 2000 guilty plea in Arlington, Virginia to four counts of forgery, three counts of larceny, and one count of attempted larceny.

Donovan was sentenced to four years in jail but served only eight months, according to the suit. Perhaps most shocking was that at the time he applied for the job at Check 'N Go, Donovan was again reportedly facing felony charges of grand larceny.

DID CRL SELL OUT TO PRIVATE EQUITY?

Monetary acrobatics by high-flying, high-finance figures can be complex and confusing. Yet CRL mortgaged its name for a \$15 million infusion from a billionaire hedge fund manager who profited from the declining value of mortgage-backed securities, caused by borrowers who have difficulty paying their mortgages.

CRL has dubbed much of subprime lending—loans to high-risk candidates with low credit ratings—as “predatory” despite little evidence to support such claims. Yet the group is lobbying to change existing laws to allow high-risk borrowers to adjust the terms of their mortgages. This would benefit those making a financial gamble on future trouble in subprime mortgages.

On October 12, 2007 Business Week published an unusual report on the apparent philanthropy of a billionaire hedge fund investor who gave a multi-million-dollar grant to CRL. But there was more to the story: “A \$20 billion hedge fund may have hit on a unique investment strategy for playing the subprime mortgage bust: fund a consumer-protection group. Paulson & Co., which has seen its assets under management soar this year through fortuitous bets in the subprime market, has given \$15 million to the Center for Responsible Lending, a Washington non-profit that has been lobbying on Capitol Hill for passage of bankruptcy legislation.”

“Paulson, run by former Bear Stearns (BSC) investment banker John Paulson, stands to rake in a windfall if the measure passes. The key bill, introduced last month, would allow federal judges to restructure mortgage terms and lower payments on the primary homes of borrowers in bankruptcy, a significant legal change. The process, known as a “cram-down” in industry jargon, is opposed by investment banks that trade in mortgage-backed securities.”

According to CRL and Paulson, the donation was not to be used for lobbying, but the Washington, D.C.-based Politico noted that CRL is “a key supporter of pending legislation that would allow homeowners to reduce mortgage payments on their homes by declaring Chapter 13 bankruptcy.” Enactment of CRL-supported bankruptcy legislation would further erode the value of mortgage-backed securities, which would increase the value of Paulson’s holdings.

The subprime gamble is a big business opportunity for Paulson, whose firm, according to Bloomberg financial news: “. . . made big bets predicting the edifice would soon come crashing down. The wager paid off in the first nine months of 2007, when Paulson’s Credit Opportunities funds rose an average of 340 percent.”

“That gain earned Paulson an estimated \$1.14 billion in performance fees for the nine months ended on Sept. 28.”

A spokesman for traditional financial institutions added, “When they start pushing for legislation to make more money, they’re lining their own pockets with people’s homes, that’s a little sticky.”

There is little evidence to suggest that Paulson’s donation represents merely a one-time payment to CRL. It seems likely that the original \$15 million donation was part of a multi-year campaign to profit off of American consumers’ mortgage woes.

The press release announcing the first donation disclosed that Paulson “said he hopes that his firm’s donation is just the beginning . . .” Indeed, as of July 2007, Paulson specifically stated that his investment horizon was two to three years, saying of his subprime bet: “The performance of these pools will not be decided over one month or two months. They will be decided over the next three years. Our investment (commitment is not based on) looking at what these bonds trade at today or tomorrow, but what the losses in these pools will be two or three years from now.”

CONCLUSION

America’s working poor and low-income individuals often benefit from well-intentioned advocates. But when those who claim to speak on behalf of the vulnerable use their

position to benefit themselves, it is an act of betrayal. The public record demonstrates clearly that the Center for Responsible Lending and its Self-Help network fit this profile.

CRL’s research is agenda-driven. Its advocacy has cost consumers more than it has “saved” them, according to Federal Reserve research. It relies on race-based claims to generate media interest. And it takes money from self-interested Wall Street billionaires who profit from the mortgage crisis so astutely hyped by CRL.

Self-Help takes in money at low rates and charges generous mark-ups to its low-income consumers. Federal records show Self-Help’s credit union allows its borrowers a much higher average loan rate compared to similar organizations, a critique at odds with CRL’s attacks on lenders who extend too much money to those who may have trouble repaying their loan. Finally, Self-Help loses its charitable image when it takes legal action against its low-income customers.

There is a name for such groups: predatory charity.

RECOGNIZING THE CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, It is my special privilege to honor the Capital Area District Library as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. I congratulate the Capital Area District Library community on behalf of all those who have benefited from their dedication and commitment to serving the members of the community.

The Capital Area District Library has an impressive history of community service and involvement since being formed in 1998, through an agreement between Ingham County and the city of Lansing, MI. Sensing most of Ingham County, the Capital Area District Library operates 13 libraries and it bookmobile, which stops throughout the county. Each library location provides residents with access to all materials and services offered by Capital Area District Library. For the past 10 years, the Capital Area District Library has been able to grow and adapt to the changing needs of the community. It has shown remarkable progress in serving the citizens of Lansing and the residents of Ingham County.

The Capital Area District Library is committed to the values of a democratic society. They aim to provide access to ideas and information that support continuous learning and enhance the quality of life of citizens. They reach these goals through community-based services, excellence in patron service and technology that links its libraries to the world of information. Their blend of a classic library decor, with new up-to-date technology, ensures uniqueness and utility. As part of their mission to provide access to useful information, the Capital Area District Library offers an interactive website that is dedicated to assist the public with questions and keep them informed about their community. I am confident that the Capital Area District Library will continue to flourish and enhance the Ingham County area for years to come.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring the Capital

Area District Library as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. May others know of my high regard for the tradition and strength this organization represents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, last night the House voted on a motion to instruct the House conferees on H.R. 2419, the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007. I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be here for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on the motion.

187TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, on March 25, 2008, we celebrated the 187th anniversary of Greek independence. I join with millions of Greek Americans in Connecticut and across the country in marking the anniversary of the successful rebellion of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire.

This anniversary offers us an opportunity to reflect on the long standing bonds between Greece and the United States. Our Founding Fathers drew from the ideals of ancient Greece, whose leaders wrote about the ideas of a republic. Thomas Jefferson called ancient Greece the “light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness.” In turn, Greek patriot Adamantios Korais in 1823 collaborated with Jefferson on the construction of a new constitution for Greece, drawing on the tenets of America’s groundbreaking democracy.

Following the Greek War of Independence, Greeks came to study at American universities at the urging of missionaries. But the real surge in Greek immigration came later in the 19th century, when newly arrived Greek Americans provided a catalyst for our Nation’s economic growth, working in textile mills and on railroads across New England and in businesses across America. The Greeks who had provided inspiration for our democracy, now directly delivered their commitment to family and hard work to form strong communities in New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Hartford, and across eastern Connecticut to add to the fabric of our American society. Today, over 3 million Americans claim Greek heritage, the descendants of the fathers and mothers of democracy.

As we recognize this important anniversary of Greek independence, I join in delivering the best wishes and congratulations from the American people to the people of Greece. We celebrate the historic ties between our two nations, and the legacy of democracy we have together shared with the world.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
DANE KOPP FOR WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Dane Kopp showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and
Whereas, Dane Kopp was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Dane Kopp always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Dane Kopp on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING RODNEY AMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Rodney Alexander Ames of Liberty, Missouri. Rodney is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1134, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Rodney has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Rodney has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Rodney Alexander Ames for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**JULIA M. CARSON POST OFFICE
BUILDING**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, a colleague and most importantly, a friend. Julia Carson made a career of serving the public and was a tireless fighter for the working men and women of Indiana. Representative Carson worked her way up to become a prominent member of Congress and achieved extraordinary goals by overcoming a difficult childhood and beating the odds. Though I am unable to physically vote on this bill, I am honored and humbled to support the dedication of the "Mapleton Annex Post Office," in Indianapolis, IN, to Representative Carson.

This lifelong public servant will be remembered for her rise from poverty, her fighting spirit, and her great accomplishments, including her political victories. Among these achievements, Carson led Congress to pass a measure awarding Rosa Parks the Congressional Gold Medal, and she also cosponsored with Senator RICHARD LUGAR legislation to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks on child health insurance.

Carson was the first African American to represent the 7th District and the second African-American woman elected to Congress from Indiana, after the late representative Katie Hall. Congresswoman Carson's memory and legacy will live on through her grandson ANDRE CARSON, now representing the 7th Congressional District of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to have known Congresswoman Carson and this dedication to her is a tangible reminder to the Indiana community of her legacy and political success.

**THE NEED FOR THE PASSAGE OF
AN EXTENSION OF THE R&D TAX
CREDIT**

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the need for this Congress to act to reauthorize the expired Research and Development Tax Credit. The failure of Congress to extend this credit before the end of last year has created an uncertain environment for American companies that have used this provision in the past to fund the research needed to maintain our economic advantage in the global market.

A good example of how this impacts real companies is Applied Materials. This company in my district invests over \$1 billion in research per year. Without this tax credit, they expect their tax burden to increase by nearly \$10 million. Although this is a small percentage of that \$1 billion investment, that amount helps employ a lot of people in my district.

Again, I ask that Congress take action to restore this important tax credit and not to jeopardize American jobs and economic competitiveness.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
D. GAMBOA**

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fallen Guam son, United States Army SSG Joseph D. Gamboa, 34, from the village of Malesso. Staff Sergeant Gamboa was assigned to B Company, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, in Vilseck, Germany, and was killed in the line of duty on March 25, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff Sergeant Gamboa is the 25th serviceman from Micronesia to lose his life in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi

Freedom. In honoring Staff Sergeant Gamboa, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice that so many young people in our Nation have made for our freedom.

Staff Sergeant Gamboa's dedication to serving our Nation and defending our freedom will be forever remembered. He now joins the brotherhood of heroes, a long line of soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen who have put their country before themselves and who have lost their lives in combat. We owe a debt of gratitude to these men and women that can never truly be repaid.

Staff Sergeant Gamboa was a loving husband, father, son, and brother. He was a dedicated family man who adored his family and would do anything for them. He joined the Army to provide a good life for his children and out of a sense of duty to his country. He is also remembered by his fellow soldiers as a wonderful friend who had a great sense of humor and who loved to sing.

I join our Guam community in mourning and in prayer for Staff Sergeant Gamboa. I offer my condolences to his wife Michelle, their children Krystianna Mychaila, Austin Joseph, Ashton Joseph, Savannah Joelle, Avery Joseph, and Isabella Jomia, his parents Francisco and Cecilia Gamboa, his brothers, sisters, and extended family and friends.

God bless the Gamboa family, God bless our men and women in uniform, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.

**HONORING ARENAC COUNTY,
MICHIGAN ON ITS 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY**

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Arenac County, Michigan on its 125th anniversary. On Friday, April 11th, I will be in Omer, Michigan to join local leaders and residents of the county at Arenac County's quasicentennial kickoff celebration.

Located at the bottom of Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron, the area we now know as Arenac County was recognized more than 500 years ago as an ideal place for settlement by Native Americans. The Rifle and AuGres Rivers made excellent fishing and canoeing routes for the Ottawa Indians and eventually early European settlers. It is these rivers and other abundant natural resources that have sustained the area these many years.

Arenac County is rich in Native American history because of its abundance of hard chert and flint for arrowheads. Later, it was also an ideal location for European settlers. Most early settlers came from Canada, starting with the Scottish and English, and later people of French descent. Later came Germans, followed by Polish, Slavic and Balkan natives.

The county traces much of its 125-year history to its logging roots. Michigan's logging industry developed around Michigan's white pine and hardwoods and the county was at the heart of it. In addition to abundant forest lands, Arenac County was ideally situated as a conduit to the lake for shipping lumber. The county also was the location of a 19th century summer resort hotel, to which guests arrived

by ship. Its history was gradually reshaped due to the disastrous wildfires that eventually destroyed the logging business in the area.

Once part of Bay and Saginaw counties, Arenac County was founded in 1883, during Michigan's post-Civil War lumber boom. In addition to lumbering, other early industries included shingle mills, farming, commercial fishing and brick and tile manufacturing. Michigan's first coal mine shaft was dug in Arenac County, and although it was never productive because of an inability to remove excess water, the shaft remains there today.

The Rifle and AuGres Rivers continue to be favorite canoeing spots and provide ample opportunity for local fishermen. Arenac County's forests are favorite spots for hunting deer and small game. These areas, along with about 50 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, fuel the area's recreation and tourism economy.

As the residents of Arenac County celebrate their 125-year history, I am honored to join them in commemorating this milestone. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives please join me in honoring Arenac County, Michigan on its 125th anniversary.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 343

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Boy Scouts of America Troop 343 and their sponsor, First United Methodist Church of Athens, as they celebrate their 80th anniversary.

Founded in 1928, Boy Scout Troop 3 began in Athens, Texas and, later became Troop 343. Over the past 12 months alone, Troop 343 has provided nearly 2,000 hours of community service on projects such as: collecting food for the Athens food pantry, picking up trash, and performing several flag retirement services and flag ceremonies. In addition, the Troop has partnered in service projects with the Henderson County Historical Society, Henderson County Center for the Performing Arts, and First United Methodist Church of Athens.

This Troop has not only remained devoted to preserving the ideals of Boy Scouts of America, they have done so with excellence. Seventy-four members from this Troop have achieved the rank of Eagle, Scouting's highest honor.

I also want to recognize Tommy Faulk, volunteer and former Boy Scout, for his integral role in providing a new facility for the Scouts of Troop 343.

In addition to teaching outdoor skills, Scouting also includes leadership training. Today's Boy Scouts are the leaders of tomorrow. Receiving my Eagle was one of the proudest moments of my life. The values, ethics, and morality boys learn through Scouting are critical not only for themselves, but to this nation as well.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Troop 343 for their longstanding devotion to service, leadership, and citizenship.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR JOE HILL'S SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe H. Hill, one of my oldest and dearest friends, a man whose 35 years of service to the 8th Congressional District of Tennessee has had a lasting impact on our area that will be felt for generations to come. Joe is retiring from Congressional service as the longest-serving district staff member in Tennessee history and has begun a new opportunity to continue his public service as a member of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole.

Joe is originally from Henry County, Tennessee, and attended Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee. After that, he served four years as Project Director for the Northwest Tennessee Development District and, in 1973, came to work on the district staff of my predecessor, the late Congressman Ed Jones. Joe worked as a field representative and then district director for Congressman Jones until his retirement in 1989. I was fortunate both to have the honor of succeeding Congressman Jones in this chamber and to have Joe Hill remain on the 8th District staff as District Director.

Over the 35 years Joe has served the 8th District, he worked very closely with an outstanding district staff that has helped thousands of Tennesseans who reach out for assistance with Social Security, Medicare and veterans' benefits. He has played an important role in the economic development of our area, working directly with every community in our district to upgrade the public infrastructure that rural towns like ours need to improve quality of life and create jobs.

Joe has also been very active with local and state politics, having worked with practically every Democratic candidate in our area over the past 35 years. I have appreciated his guidance over the years and know that countless other elected leaders have also depended on his keen political sense in working with the public in West and Middle Tennessee. Among the candidates Joe advised are Vice President Al Gore and Governors Phil Bredesen and Ned McWherter.

Joe and I have never worked as employer and employee but have instead maintained a working relationship more closely resembling a partnership and friendship. Betty Ann and I enjoy the time we get to spend with Joe and his wife Susan and their children, Adam and his wife Niketa, Judith and Travis. Fortunately, Joe is not going too far, and I know our families will have many more opportunities to spend time together in the future.

Madam Speaker, at the end of the day, there is one main reason we come to serve in this body: to help the people we represent. It is with the assistance of such exceptional staff members as Joe Hill that we are able to achieve those goals. There are thousands of West and Middle Tennesseans whose lives have been touched by Joe's dedication to improving our area.

I ask you and our colleagues to join me as I thank Joe for three-and-a-half decades of

service to the 8th District, express my gratitude for his long friendship and congratulate him as he enters a new phase of his public service.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MITCHEL KILDAY FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mitchel Kilday showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Mitchel Kilday was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Mitchel Kilday always displayed sportsmanship on and off the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Mitchel Kilday on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING GARRETT HAVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Clair Havens of Liberty, Missouri. Garrett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 2418, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garrett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garrett Clair Havens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 166. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

April 9, 2008: Rollcall vote 175, on motion to instruct the conferees—H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act—I would have voted “aye.”

IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD EDWARD
GENSER, 1944–2008

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise today to honor an environmental leader whose work and passion has made the Sonoran Desert truly a better place.

Richard Edward Genser, known as Rich, Rex, and to many of his good friends as Gerónimo, was born in Newark, New Jersey and spent his childhood in South Orange, New Jersey. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam war.

Rich came to Tucson, Arizona in the late 1980s. Although in the real estate business, his passion was preserving natural areas, protecting wilderness, and ensuring that development was directed away from the most sensitive lands.

Rich was a lifelong member of the Sierra Club and served the organization in several capacities including as chair of its Grand Canyon Chapter as well as its Rincon Group in southern Arizona. He helped to found the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection and was key in the efforts to Save the Scenic Santa Ritas from mining threats, a threat that has not yet been extinguished.

Rich was a good friend to many and there was no one who was more full of life. He loved Arizona, he loved the Earth, and he loved the Sierra Club and all of his many friends there. Rich also loved a good fight (for the environment) and helped with numerous efforts, including a successful effort to promote Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Richard Genser passed away on February 27, 2008 at the young age of 63. He is survived by his wife, Claire; father, Lester Genser (Agnes); son, Jordon Genser; sister, Susan Bulger; brother, Jon Genser (Annie); stepdaughters Carol Bailey Stevens (Eloy), Ashley Ronen (Shlomi); four grandchildren, Zaida, Blue, Hailey, and Samantha; three nieces, Laura, Jane, and Courtney, a nephew, Gregg; several great-nieces and nephews, and his ex-wife Jill Genser.

Rich leaves a legacy that cannot be adequately expressed in words, and gives all of us who have known him and worked with him inspiration to follow our passion and know that one person can make a difference for the better.

CONGRATULATING THE REICHER
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Reicher Catholic High School Cougars football team on their 41 to 7 victory in the 2007 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Division III state championship game. Reicher has a long history of outstanding achievement in the classroom and on the athletic field, and it is a privilege to represent these students, teachers, coaches and their families in Congress.

Winning a state football championship to cap a successful season is an extraordinary accomplishment that is a testament to the dedication of the student athletes, their coaches, and the community as a whole. The Reicher players have demonstrated outstanding commitment to achieving their goals through teamwork and personal sacrifice, traits that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to offer my sincere congratulations to the Reicher Catholic High School Cougars football team on winning the 2007 TAPPS State Football Championship, and I would like to enter the names of the players, coaches, principal and trainers in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as we celebrate their victory and wish them continued success in the future.

Thomas Zamudio, Stephen Harrison, Howie Grieve, Justin Dvorsky, Zach Rimlinger, Nick Fung, Andrew Mocio, Steve Lindloff, Ben Crenwelge, Kenneth Cluley.

Shadowhawk Saldana, Ross Rasner, Jacob Wilson, Nick Castillo, Matt McGinnis, Nick Deaver, Matt Pineda, Jose Luna, Jacob Peter, Joey Bagnasco.

Daniel Vaught, Juan Lizardo, Jonathan Young, Trent Hughes, Ryan Dunlap Jonathan Harper, Austin Wheeler, Brian Horn, Tyler Ellis, Charlie Lashua.

Taylor Madden, Austin Simpson, Jonathan Hoxie, Dalton Morgan, Joe Flores, Robert Gonzales, Lyndon Auclair, Lance Tepe, Dylan Carmody, Josh Wrzesinski, Hunter Tunmire, Justin Dvorsky, Cameron Owen, and Eric Morales.

Athletic Director/Head Football Coach: Assistant Coaches: Mark Waggoner; John Armes, Daniel Balderama, Adam Castillo, Nelson Castro, John Ryan, Steve Smith, David Wrzesinski, David Hurtado; Principal: Arlene Jones; and Trainers: Brianna Crenwelge, Erin Lewie, Haley Sebik, Briana Vasquez, and Morgan Welch.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF UNIVERSITY OF WIS-
CONSIN-EXTENSION CONFERENCE
CENTERS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Extension Conference Centers (ECC). Three conference centers, located on the UW-Madison campus, host tens of thousands of visitors each year. The centers provide meeting spaces, distance education, telecommunications technologies, catering, overnight lodging, and conference planning services to the UW System, state agencies, and other governmental and educational organizations.

Dedicated on April 11, 1958 as the Wisconsin Center for Adult Education, the building that is now known as the Pyle Center was the first constructed in order to provide a “roof for the Wisconsin Idea.” The idea embodies the belief that the benefits of education should not be confined to the halls and classrooms of the university but rather should extend to the boundaries of the state to improve the lives of people across Wisconsin. Early proponents of the Wisconsin Idea, with support from Governor Robert M. La Follette, Sr., assembled faculty experts and state legislators to bring their vision to life and give Wisconsin national notoriety as a place of innovation and progressivism. It was in this tradition of the university's service to the state that the UW Foundation built the first UW-Extension Conference Center.

Today, the Pyle Center is part of an extension system that extends the boundaries of the university even further than the boundaries of the state and expresses the central role of universities in a global economy. Visitors perennially hail from all parts of the world and the center continues to be a model for taking technological, academic, and scientific advancements and making them accessible and relevant to people and institutions everywhere.

To honor ECC's 50-year legacy as the roof for the Wisconsin Idea, a commemorative program will be held at the Pyle Center for the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, stakeholders, and supporters.

For 50 years of dedication and service to communities everywhere, I join Wisconsinites from every corner of the state in recognizing UW-Extension Conference Centers for fulfilling the promise of the Wisconsin Idea. I wish everyone involved many more years of success.

THE WIEN INTERNATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, is celebrating a special anniversary this month, April 11–13, 2008.

It was 50 years ago that Massachusetts Senators John F. Kennedy and Leverett Saltonstall and former U.S. Ambassador George Kennan joined University leaders to help inaugurate a unique international exchange program.

The Wien International Scholarship Program, established through a generous gift from philanthropists Lawrence and Mae Wien, was designed to further worldwide understanding by bringing students from around the globe to Brandeis to study in an atmosphere of cooperative learning.

Looking back over the last half-century, it is clear that the program has had an impact on

the international community that even its founders could not have envisioned. Since its founding with an inaugural class of 30 students from 16 countries, the Wien program has grown in stature and worldwide recognition. More than 800 students from over 100 countries have come to Brandeis as Wien Scholars.

Through the years, the Wien program has produced an impressive array of enlightened world leaders dedicated to making the world a better place. Wien Scholars have held important positions at the United Nations, served in prominent roles in national governments from Japan to Kenya to Iceland to the Philippines, and pursued life-saving medical breakthroughs. They have also distinguished themselves in the arts, business, education, law, and science.

I urge all of us, especially at this time of increasing ethnic and religious tensions around the world, to use the fiftieth anniversary of the Wien program to uphold the legacy of its founders by promoting the principles of understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGORY
MATTHEW PROSKE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Gregory Matthew Proske, for attaining the impressive rank of Eagle Scout.

Gregory has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 11 years. Joining as a Tiger Cub, he has shown dedication to the organization, successfully moving up the Boy Scout ranks over time. Gregory is a proud member of Troop 434 in the Trailblazer District in North Tarrant County, Texas.

Gregory went through a rigorous process to receive this honor. A scout must fulfill seven main requirements before achieving Eagle status. He was required to be active in his troop for a period of at least six months after he had achieved the rank of Life Scout and to demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. He earned the expected 21 merit badges needed to qualify and served in a position of leadership in the scouts for at least 6 months. Gregory took part in a Scoutmaster conference, successfully completed an Eagle Scout board of review, and provided the Fort Worth community with a service project. Gregory reworked two planting beds at St. John the Apostle Catholic School in Fort Worth, Texas for his project.

A student at Nolan High School, Gregory plans to attend Texas A&M University, where he intends to become a member of the Corps of Cadets. Additionally, Proske aims to serve in the Air Force as a fighter pilot.

Madam Speaker, becoming an Eagle Scout is only the most recent in a string of impressive achievements, and I am confident Gregory will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I commend Gregory for his penchant for service, his commitment to the community, and this most remarkable accomplishment. He is a role model, both to young people and the entire North Texas area, and I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOLS EMPOWERED TO RESPOND ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the former superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina, I am pleased today to introduce the Schools Empowered to Respond Act. This bill will put the federal government to work in partnership with states and local education agencies to support school preparedness planning, training, and equipment needs.

Schools are a vital resource in our community, and our children spend the majority of their daylight hours in our educational institutions. But schools are often overlooked when considering emergency preparedness and first responder needs. Even as teachers, administrators, and students are working together to make schools a safe place for learning, they can use additional help and guidance to make their planning as effective as possible.

When I surveyed principals in my district's schools in 2006 about emergency response planning, I learned that schools were keeping our children safe but, despite the lessons of 9/11, the federal government was doing little to improve emergency planning and disaster mitigation at schools. I then asked the Government Accountability Office to survey schools across the nation. They spoke to school personnel in Washington State, Iowa, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, and my own state of North Carolina. Last June, they reported the same thing I found in the 2nd District: schools want to improve their security, but need support and guidance to make improvements.

The Schools Empowered to Respond Act gives schools this support and guidance. It takes simple but important steps to make sure that schools have the help they need to keep our kids safe. State governments and education officials know what is best for their communities and their students, and this bill supports their work to keep schools safe and secure places to learn.

It gives school officials a "one-stop shop" in the Department of Homeland Security they can look to for advice, best practices, and assistance for school security planning. This office will coordinate federal initiatives such as the Safe Schools Initiative, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools, and Safe and Drug Free Schools to ensure that resources get to the schools that need them. The bill also ensures that schools are eligible for emergency planning grants from DHS to improve school security. Given the vital role that schools serve in our communities, it ensures that teachers and administrators, school resource officers, and school emergency planning officials have a prominent voice in our national homeland security response. In short, it empowers school personnel to continue their good work and to implement their plans for school security by giving them the guidance and resources they need to keep our children safe.

Given recent events at schools across the country, we as a nation simply must invest in important priorities like emergency planning to ensure our schools remain prepared for any

emergency. I am proud to be taking steps to help schools with their emergency planning, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Schools Empowered to Respond Act today.

TRIBUTE TO MATAYA HULING

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great achievement by a young American from Garner, Iowa. This Sunday, April 13, Mataya Huling will be presented with The Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest achievement possible within the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

According to the Girl Scouts, the Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold." It is something that a girl can be passionate about—in thought, deed, and action. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

This award is certainly very prestigious, as last year only 5.4 percent of all eligible Girl Scouts received the Gold Award.

According to the Garner Leader and Signal newspaper, Mataya's Gold project was to redo the Garner-Hayfield High School Drama Department prop room. Mataya has been actively involved in drama programs since her days in junior high school. She worked 80 hours to organize, clean, repair and properly store props, costumes and materials used by the drama department.

Previously Mataya earned the Girl Scout Silver Award by planning and presenting several bike safety workshops for younger troop members and pre-school age children.

Along with her dedication to Girl Scouts, Mataya is involved in countless other activities in her school and community including chorus, band, GAP Teen Council, golf, and has volunteered teaching Sunday Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Mataya is a shining example of the dedication, determination and faith present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Mataya and her parents, Mark and Missy, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in not only congratulating Mataya but also recognizing that maybe one day in the not too distant future we will see Congresswoman Mataya Huling serving in this historic institution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CHASE HUBER FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Chase Huber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Chase Huber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Chase Huber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Chase Huber on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

TRIBUTE TO CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the Chelsea District Library on being named the Best Small Library in America for 2008 by Library Journal. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate the Chelsea Library on behalf of all of those who have benefited from its commitment to Washtenaw County and dedication to high standards and superior services.

The Chelsea District Library proudly serves 14,000 residents of Chelsea, Michigan and its surrounding areas by providing accessible, reliable, and up-to-date information and technology. Within its impressive renovated facility, the library offers an extensive collection of diverse research materials including books, periodicals, and videos as well as online and CD-ROM databases. Exceptionally responsive to community needs, the Chelsea library boasts abundant success for its targeted outreach programs.

In its fourth year, the Best Small Library award is presented to libraries that serve populations of less than 25,000. The award is cosponsored by the Library Journal, the oldest publication covering the library field, along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which seeks to ensure that all people have access to a great education and to technology in public libraries.

This year's award for Best Small Library in America sent to the Chelsea District Library for its continued excellence in its field. Today this library stands as the pride of the Chelsea community, working to educate all local citizens by providing access to cutting edge resources in a welcoming environment. This historic library continues to serve as a model for small libraries across Michigan and the nation.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the Chelsea District Library for its continued service to the Chelsea community. May others know of my high regard for this library's innovative programs and enthusiastic outreach, as well as my best wishes for the Chelsea Library in the future.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE KICKLIGHTER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an amazing Idahoan, Steve Kicklighter, known to his listeners as KeKe Luv. In the name of Child Abuse Prevention, KeKe set out to break a world record and stay awake for 175 hours, and I'm proud to say KeKe accomplished this enormous goal.

KeKe is a disk jockey for Boise radio station KSAS–103.3 FM. With the support of his station, KeKe took on the microphone for 7 full days. He only received one 15 minute break every 8 hours, and he accomplished this feat without any caffeine. Why did he do this? The answer is simple, he wanted to create awareness of child abuse, and, like most people, he wants that abuse to end.

Over a year ago, KeKe learned of the death of 4-year-old Summer Phelps. Her tragic death was one of the worst cases of child abuse that the city of Spokane, Washington, has ever seen. A once-happy redheaded little girl moved into her father and step-mother's home, where she endured unimaginable abuse in the days leading up to her murder. KeKe's message is simple: it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention month, KeKe took on the challenge to stay awake for 7 straight days to help raise awareness. KSAS–103.3 FM passed out blue ribbons and promoted Boise's non-profit organization, Idaho's Heart.

Thank you to KeKe Luv, thank you to KSAS–103.3 FM, and thank you to all their fans who offered support. I am so proud of your accomplishment, and I believe because of your efforts, the city of Boise and the Nation are ready to take action to prevent and end child abuse.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LAND- SCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I rise in its support. Its sole purpose and effect is to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, as a matter of statutory law.

The NLCS now includes more than 800 units, including all National Scenic and Historic Trails, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness study areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM. In all, it includes some 26 million acres, or about 10 percent of the land that BLM manages.

As a system it was established in 2000 by an administrative action of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. However, each of its units was originally established by Congress or through a Presidential Proclamation under the

Antiquities Act of 1906 and each is managed according to its enabling authority, as well as other laws applicable to various units or portions of units, such as the Wilderness Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The purpose of Secretary Babbitt's administrative action was to erect a framework to tie each unit of the NLCS together into a larger conservation system, and the result has been to increase the public recognition and understanding of these special places within the array of public lands under management of the BLM.

The NLCS units include significant natural resources, including approximately 12 percent of the BLM-managed sage grouse habitat, as well as important cultural and scientific resources. For example, in Colorado the system includes the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, which has more than 6,000 archeological sites significant to Native American cultures, as well the Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Areas (the latter of which is named for our former colleague, Representative Scott McInnis).

These and the other NLCS units provide unique recreational opportunities, and their status as part of the system has proved valuable not only in terms of their recognition by the public but also as it relates to funding for their management.

The bill makes that status a matter of law. At the same time, it specifies that any future additions to the system must be authorized separately—as the existing units have been—and that each unit is to be managed in accordance with all laws applicable to that unit and in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated.

The legislation does not impose any new conditions on use of the lands involved, nor does it affect existing rights with respect to those lands, whether those are related to grazing or other purposes. The Congressional Budget Office says its enactment will not affect BLM's budget because BLM already has permanent authority to manage the lands in the system, subject to amounts provided annually in appropriations acts, and that enacting H.R. 2016 will not affect direct spending or revenues or the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill is supported by the Bush Administration as well as by many other groups, including the Colorado-based Outdoor Industry Association as well as the American Hiking Society, National Council of Churches, Boone and Crockett Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Chairman, this is a modest measure but one that deserves enactment, and I urge its approval by the House.

TRIBUTE TO ARMER NATHAN BURKART

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Army SPC Armer Nathan

Burkart, who died of injuries sustained in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 11, 2006.

Specialist Burkart was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, with which he served in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a high school student in Derwood, Maryland, Specialist Burkart participated in ROTC. He attended Lehigh University on an ROTC scholarship before enlisting with the United States Army in July 2000.

Specialist Burkart always dreamed of a career in the military, following in the footsteps of his two grandfathers, who were both retired Navy captains. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Christy, and a fine soldier.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I recognize Specialist Burkart's heroic service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENT JAROD DITTMAN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and commemorate the service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman, who died from injuries sustained while on duty Sunday, March 30, 2008.

A Border Patrol agent since March 2007, Agent Dittman was assigned to the Brown Field Border Patrol Station in California. Agent Dittman's life-ending injuries were sustained in a vehicle accident while driving in the early morning to his assigned patrol area in Jamul, California.

Prior to joining the Border Patrol, Agent Dittman served 6 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he achieved the rank of sergeant. While in the National Guard, Agent Dittman served in Kosovo and was deployed to Louisiana supporting relief operations following Hurricane Katrina.

Agent Dittman is the 18th U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent killed in the line of duty in the San Diego sector. His unfortunate death is a reminder of the danger and risks these officers face as they work to secure our Nation's borders.

Agent Dittman will be remembered for his commitment to his job and country through his service in the United States military and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. May God bring peace to his wife, Paveline, their daughter, Angela, his parents, brother, sister, grandparents, family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

On behalf of the people of the United States, we honor and commemorate the life and service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 1, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted

"yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 150, rollcall No. 151, and rollcall No. 152.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unexpectedly absent from rollcall votes 164, 165, and 166.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 164, H. Res. 1084, ordering the previous question on H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

On rollcall 165, on agreeing to H. Res. 1084, the Rule for H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 166, H. Res. 1077, calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, nearly every longtime Washingtonian knows of a beautiful location on Woodley Road, the 18-acre compound known as the Twin Oaks estate. It was built in 1888 by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society. The estate's 26-room house in the early Colonial, Georgian, Revival style and modeled after a New England frame summer house, is the only remaining example of that style in the District of Columbia.

The estate was rented to the Republic of China, ROC, Government in 1937 and was later sold to the ROC Government in 1947. In its heyday, the estate was the official residence of 9 ROC ambassadors, who used it to entertain senior members of the U.S. Government, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, including future President Gerald Ford, and other members of the diplomatic corps in Washington, DC. It began a tradition of hospitality and friendship at Twin Oaks that continues to this day.

Twin Oaks was also the place where the ROC's senior diplomat H. K. Yang negotiated with the U.S. administration and Members of Congress to chart a positive course for future relations between Taiwan and the United States, after the termination of official ties between our two countries in 1978.

The product and result of Minister H. K. Yang's negotiations was the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act in April 1979. The TRA set the framework for unofficial relations between the U.S. and Taiwan. For the last 29

years, the TRA has served both the U.S. and Taiwan extremely well. We have continued our unofficial, but strong ties with Taiwan. Taiwan, in turn, has become one of the most prosperous and democratic countries in Asia. It is my hope that as we celebrate the 120-year history of the Twin Oaks estate, we also celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act this April.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LAND- SCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, today I am pleased to rise in support of the National Landscape Conservation System Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the National Wildlife Federation, EarthJustice, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and more, would officially establish America's newest conservation system. With 26 million acres of land under its jurisdiction, the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, protects our nation's crown jewels.

From the Lewis and Clarke National Historic Trail to Nevada's Red Rock Canyon, this legislation works to conserve the fabric of the West. In 2000, the Secretary of the Interior established the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the best of the lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This bill provides statutory recognition of the existing National Landscape Conservation System as well as its permanent establishment as a land conservation system equivalent to that of the National Park Service. At no cost to the taxpayer, Congress has the opportunity to protect these lands for millions of Americans for generations to come.

Nothing in this legislation changes the way in which NLCS lands are currently administered, including hunting and recreation management. H.R. 2016 adds no land to NLCS, nor does it contain any provisions diminishing private property rights. Following in Theodore Roosevelt's footsteps, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this landmark legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. KATHLEEN WILBUR

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kathleen Wilbur, who is being honored with the renaming of the Range Hill Elementary School to Kathleen H. Wilbur Elementary School. Kathleen was selected for this honor because of her dedication and service to the Delaware public school system for the last 48 years.

Kathleen has been instrumental throughout her years of service to the Delaware public

school system. Through her 20 years of service on the Board of Education in New Castle County's Colonial School District as both the Vice-President and President, Kathleen played an extremely active role in key decisions that have affected thousands of students' lives. Kathleen remains active working with the schools in Delaware, and she continues to volunteer with students with disabilities at the John G. Leach School.

Kathleen was honored by the Delaware School Boards Association throughout her dedicated years of service, as she served as a member, chair, and eventually president of the association. She also served the association as Delaware's State representative delegate to the National School Boards Association. Kathleen received the Boardmanship Certificate every year they have ever been presented due to her relentless service to the Delaware School Boards Association. In 1993, the Delaware School Boards awarded Kathleen the Distinguished Service Award for her 33 years of service. The National School Boards Association honored her with the Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge Mrs. Kathleen Wilbur for her many years of service and numerous contributions to the State of Delaware. She has been an invaluable asset to the Delaware public school system and positively impacted the lives of thousands of Delaware students.

ADDRESSING SURVEILLANCE LEGISLATION IN AMERICA

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of surveillance in our country, and the efforts of this Congress to reform our laws in a way that protects both our national security and our individual freedoms.

Over the past several months, competing legislation from the House and Senate has repeatedly come to a vote in an effort to reform existing FISA laws. I have great respect for the men and women working to see this come to light, but am dismayed at the unwillingness of some on both sides of the aisle to seek consensus on this important issue.

For me and my constituents, the issue is clear: that a terrorist threat exists, and we cannot deny our intelligence community a necessary tool in the fight against this global threat. To see this done, we must work quickly to reach an agreement within the House and Senate that can become law. The Senate has already passed such a bill, and I again urge my colleagues in the House to consider that legislation.

I would like to add that these negotiations reached some of their most heated moments just as the Congress's district work period was upon us. Away from Washington's heated po-

litical rhetoric, I spent two weeks with my constituents as I traveled the 10,000 square miles in my district holding town hall meetings. It is revealing to me that folks back home wanted to talk with me about health care and energy costs, but on rare occasion did anyone come forward to discuss FISA. I can only take away from this that they expect us to pass a bill that protects their safety and their civil liberties with expediency so we can return to the business of addressing their most immediate concerns.

There are those who have said that an agreement is on the horizon, and I commend our leadership in their efforts to make this happen. I look forward to casting my vote for legislation that provides the intelligence community with an effective means to conduct surveillance on the enemies of this nation. Moreover, in this time of uncertainty at home and unrest overseas, we cannot confuse our friends with our enemies by failing to protect those who aided the government in seeking out terrorist threats after September 11th. The final version of this bill must contain legal protection for the industries that faithfully answered their country's call for help in a time of need.

I have great hope that common sense, and the needs of our safety and security will prevail in this effort, and I look forward to seeing us pass a bill in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO ELOISA CARRASCO BACA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor a great friend and outstanding contributor to the robust life and rich culture of my 51st Congressional District, Eloisa Carrasco Baca. Eloisa passed away on April 2, 2008.

Eloisa was born on May 16, 1916 in the little farming community of Los Lentes, New Mexico. She had one brother Nicolas (deceased), and was the eldest child of Thomas and Rosalia (Montoya) Carrasco. In 1941, Eloisa married her husband of 57 years, Nicolas Baca. Shortly after marriage, husband Nick began serving a very distinguished military tour in World War II, and as a Ranger scout with the Second Ranger Battalion, scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on the Normandy coast of France to destroy enemy bunkers in June of 1944. He also served honorably at the historic "Battle of the Bulge" where after being taken a prisoner of war behind enemy lines, he escaped, finished his service to his Country, and triumphantly returned back home to his beloved Eloisa.

Nick and Eloisa moved to California in 1952 and resided in National City, California for 53 years. Eloisa led a wonderful life and contributed fully to her family and community. She was the loving mother of 6 children, Tommy, George, Jose, Robert, Rosalie, and Herman.

In fact her son, Herman Baca, is a very prominent Mexican-American activist in San Diego County. She was also the proud grandmother of 19 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

In a lasting tribute to Eloisa, her son Herman stated on behalf of family and friends. "Your children, grandchildren, family and many friends thank God for granting you 91 years of life, and blessing all of us with your presence and love."

Eloisa Carrasco Baca will be truly missed by all who were touched by her spirit, her energy and love for life.

Descanse en paz.

HONORING LANE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE FIRST CHASE URBAN DEBATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lane Technical High School on their victory at the first Chase Urban Debate National Championship held in Chicago last weekend. I want to specifically congratulate Lane Tech students Andrew Hobaugh and Nick Locke for taking first place in the tournament.

Lane Technical High School is the largest public high school in Illinois with a strong tradition of superior education on Chicago's north side since 1908. Lane Tech offers students a superb college preparatory curriculum, with particular emphasis placed upon the technological aspects of a modern education. Lane Tech holds itself to its mission statement to provide all students with a superior academic, technical, and fine arts education that prepares students for success in their post-secondary endeavors of school, career, community and family life.

The debate tournament was hosted by the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, NAUDL, and was held at the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management's downtown Chicago campus. Competing against 33 other urban debate teams from around the country Andrew Hobaugh and Nick Locke took first place after beating Atlanta's Grady High School in the final round on Sunday.

According to NAUDL, Urban Debate Leagues have proven to increase literacy scores by 25 percent and achieve high school graduation rates of nearly 100 percent.

Lane Tech is an outstanding educational institution in Chicago. Year after year, they continue to be committed to improving and educating our youth to secure a promising future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand today to recognize Lane Tech High School and particularly, Andrew Hobaugh and Nick Locke for their outstanding performance at the first Chase Urban Debate National Championship.